

JPRS 82117

29 October 1982

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2649



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

29 October 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2649

CONTENTS

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- Klibi Interviewed on U.S. Plan, Arab Relations
(Chedli Klibi Interview; AL-JAZIRAH, 8 Oct 82)..... 1

PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS

- Area Papers Urge Arab Support for Iraq
(WAKH, 3 Oct 82)..... 4

AFGHANISTAN

- Karmal Addresses Students in Budapest 6 October
(Kabul Domestic Service, 8 Oct 82)..... 6

Briefs

- New Bulgarian Envoy Arrives 8
- Dost Meets With UN Official 8
- Earthquake in Herat Area 8
- New Iraqi Ambassador Arrives 8

ALGERIA

- Safeguard, Renovation of Casbah Supported
(Ammar Belhimer; EL MOUDJAHID, various dates)..... 9

BAHRAIN

Briefs

- Syrian Statement on 'Arafat 20
- U.S. Israeli Support 20
- Djibouti Presidential Message 21

EGYPT

Problems of Government Worker Productivity, Conditions Reviewed (AL-'AMAL, Sep 82).....	22
Red Tape Causes Explored, by Victor Salamah Government Workers' Problems Listed, by 'Adil Hamam	
Islamic View on Population Problem, Birth Control Discussed (Hilmi 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sabir; AL-NUR, various dates).....	36
Implications of Family Planning Tampering With God's Creation Scholars Disagree About Birth Control Reasons for Allowing Birth Control Benefits of Birth Control Questioned	
Gas Tank Storage Problems ('Adil Ibrahim; AL-AHRAM, 8 Sep 82).....	50

IRAN

Minister Explains Measures to Islamicize Economy (Seyyed Mohammad Asghari Interview; KEYHAN, 27 Sep 82)...	52
Esfahan Reconstruction Crusade To Rebuild War-Stricken Areas (BURS, 27 Aug 82).....	56
Advances Reported in Various Sectors of the Economy (BURS, 25, 28 Aug 82).....	57
Grain Storage Capacity Esfahan Steel Mill Output	
All Un-Islamic Laws Voided (Mohammad Hashem Samadi Ahari Interview; KEYHAN, 24 Aug 82).....	59
Foreign Trade, Economic Developments Reported (IRAN PRESS DIGEST, 28 Sep 82).....	61
Increases in Agricultural, Cattle Production Reported (IRAN PRESS DIGEST, 28 Sep 82).....	66
Background of Hojjatiyeh Society Activities Reviewed (IRAN PRESS DIGEST, 28 Sep 82).....	70
Iran's, Iraq's War Situations Compared (NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG, 10-11 Oct 82).....	74

Steps Taken for Reconstruction of War-Stricken Areas (ETTELA'AT, 25 Sep 82).....	77
Improvements in Utility Services Announced (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 9 Aug 82).....	80
More Power From 'Abbaspur Dam Water Being Restored to Ilam, Mahmudi Interview Better Distribution of Gas, Goods	
Envoy in Tehran Explains Why Syria Attended Fes Conference (Ibrahim Younis Interview; ETTELA'AT, 25 Sep 82).....	84
Islamic Councils of Factories Hold First Congress (IRAN PRESS DIGEST, 28 Sep 82).....	90
Inauguration by Minister of Labor Address by Majlis Deputy Hoseyn Kamali	
Cooperatives Accused of Black Market Operations (KEYHAN, 24 Aug 82).....	95
Tabriz Area Gets New Electric Power Transformer (Hoseyni Interview; KEYHAN, 24 Aug 82).....	97

IRAQ

'Izzat Ibrahim Addresses Ba'th Military Cadres (Voice of the Masses, 12 Oct 82).....	98
Azeri Broadcast Holds Khomeyni Responsible for Blast (Baghdad International Service, 4 Oct 82).....	99
General Comments on Progress of Recent Battles (INA, 10 Oct 82).....	100
Newspaper Comments on War Victories; Desire for Peace (INA, 7 Oct 82).....	102
Baghdad Radio Comments on Imperialism, Iran (Baghdad Domestic Service, 4 Oct 82).....	104
Paper Urges Arabs To Honor Fes Commitments on War (INA, 4 Oct 82).....	106
Briefs	
Kenyan Parliamentarians	108
Iranian, Iraqi Forces	108

ISRAEL

Air Force Officer Discusses Lebanon Battles (Meyrav Halperin; BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, Jul 82).....	109
F-16 Pilot's Tactics Discussed (Tzvi Gutman; BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, Jul 82).....	113
Utilization of Airfields in Lebanon War Discussed (Yaqir Alqariv; BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR, Jul 82).....	117
New IDF Communications Chief ('AL HAMISHMAR, 15 Sep 82).....	120

OMAN

Forces Conclude Military Exercises (Muscat Domestic Service, 11 Oct 82).....	121
---	-----

QATAR

U.S. Refuses PLO Meeting (QNA, 20 Oct 82).....	122
---	-----

SAUDI ARABIA

Israel Hoping To Hamper Reagan-Arab Committee Talks (Riyadh Domestic Service, 20 Oct 82).....	123
Press Comments on Arab Delegation in United States (Riyadh Domestic Service, 20 Oct 82).....	125
Symposium on Impact of Foreign Labor Force (AL-RIYAD, 31 Aug 82).....	127
Reorganization of Monetary System Called For (AL-DUSTUR, 9 Aug 82).....	143
Commentator Views Growing Support for Palestinians (Hashim Abduh Hashim; Riyadh Domestic Service, 16 Oct 82).....	145
Council Discusses Status of Students Studying Abroad ('Abdallah al-'Asimi; AL-MADINAH, 2 Aug 82).....	147

SUDAN

Briefs	
Italian Grant	149
Republican Decrees	149

SYRIA

Vocational, Technical Training Programs Viewed (AL-THAWRAH, 24 Aug 82).....	150
--	-----

Briefs Agricultural Legislation	154
------------------------------------	-----

TUNISIA

Results National Survey of Food Products Consumption (DIALOGUE, 6 Sep 82).....	155
---	-----

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Local Press Calls for Confronting U.S.-Israeli Alliance (WAM, 19 Oct 82).....	158
--	-----

Briefs Foreign Ministry, ELF Meet	160
Dubayy Export Figure	160

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

KLIBI INTERVIEWED ON U.S. PLAN, ARAB RELATIONS

PM131357 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 8 Oct 82 pp 4-5

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Tunisi and 'Isa al-Rawi in Tunis--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What do you think of the Iraqi-Syrian differences and the forthcoming Riyadh meeting to settle them?

Answer: There is no doubt that what happened in Fes is of great significance because, for the first time in years, the Iraqi and Syrian presidents met and spoke directly to each other in the company of their brothers and colleagues from the other Arab states, in discussions which lasted several hours and were characterized by complete objectivity, calm and mutual respect. This in itself is a big gain. True, their views are still different and far apart and much work is needed to bridge the gap between them. However, what happened in Fes was in itself great, thanks to the efforts of a number of leaders, especially their majesties King Fahd and King Hassan II. We believe that these efforts should continue. It might be useful to continue the dialogue between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of King Fahd to iron out the differences. Even if we fail to eliminate all the differences, the two presidents could at least freeze what is left of them because of the seriousness of the Arab situation as a result of the intensified Israeli aggression. The situation dictates that we mobilize all the Arab resources, including the resources of Iraq, which we must extricate from the war with Iran and place at the service of the major Arab confrontation.

Question: Considering Egypt's acceptance of the Fes summit resolutions and its recall of the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv, what are the chances of Egypt's return to the Arab fold?

Answer: This is a very important issue. We are convinced that the Lebanese war would not have been possible had Israel's southern front been insecure. It was Israel's sense of security in the south which made it attack Lebanon and those in the northern front. This is why we consider the return of Egypt to the Arab fold to be certainly one of our most important duties. This was the consensus at the Fes summit conference after long, objective and very frank discussions. Everyone agreed that efforts must be made to ensure Egypt's return to the Arab fold so that Egypt could play its full and undiminished natural role within the Arab family.

Question: But Egypt is maintaining that it was not the one which broke off relations with the Arabs.

Answer: Our states agreed on the need for work to make Egypt's return possible. They also agreed that Egypt's return should enable it to play its role to the full.

Question: After the Beirut massacre how can we keep the peace plan alive, and what is your opinion of President Reagan's plan?

Answer: The recent Beirut massacre was in fact a maneuver with major objectives, including wreaking vengeance on the Palestinians and expelling them from Lebanon. However, the most important objective of the massacre was to torpedo the Arab peace plan and force the Arabs to abandon the peace plan adopted unanimously at the Fes summit conference and embark on military confrontation which would put an end to the Arab peace plan.

As for the U.S. initiative announced by President Reagan, it is well below the minimum. It has many shortcomings, it says nothing about essential issues and it contains certain unacceptable points. The U.S. initiative does not fulfill Arab aspirations. However, what is important about this initiative and what makes it interesting to the Arabs is that for the first time an American president is dealing personally with the Middle East question and using hitherto unfamiliar political expressions, the most important being the reference to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. We never heard such words from a U.S. official in the past. Now, we hear such words from Secretary of State Shultz and from the U.S. president himself. We consider this to be a very important shift, but is it enough? No, but must we reject it? We believe that we should do everything we can to improve and develop the U.S. position and gradually bring it closer to the points which are acceptable to us.

Question: Against the background of the Sabra and Shatila massacre, how credible is the U.S. president's initiative, in your opinion?

Answer: As I have said, Israel is always trying to sabotage the peace efforts. Its fear of the PLO's political gains at the international level and in an increasing number of influential states made it launch the war in Lebanon. Its fear of the U.S. peace plan and the Arab peace plan made it plot the murder of Bashir al-Jumayyil and the Sabra and Shatila massacre. Israel fears the U.S. plan even though the plan only fractionally responds to Arab rights. It is afraid because it expects the plan to be modified as a result of Arab efforts and world pressure on the United States. This is why it wants to freeze and abort the plan now. It does not want the spotlight to be on any peace plan for the region because war is the very basis of Israel's existence, in the eyes of Begin, Sharon and Shamir. This is why Israel dealt a blow to the U.S. guarantees to undermine U.S. credibility in the Arab world and thus foil the U.S. plan. In fact voices have already been raised wondering about U.S. credibility when Israel is playing havoc and making trouble in the region. This is exactly what Israel wanted, and we must not fall into this trap. While not satisfied with the U.S. peace plan, we consider it to be an important starting point that we can steer in a direction that will enable us to impose the Arab peace plan.

Question: But the United States apparently wants Arab friendship without prejudice to the U.S.-Israeli strategy. Is this not a stark contradiction?

Answer: I believe that the U.S. strategy in the Middle East is a grave mistake. I have often said this to the American personalities I have met with. The U.S. strategy considers Israel to be the central factor in the Middle East. This is true from a military point of view, but the United States does not give much weight to the influence the Arab people have on the fate of the region. As long as they hold the United States responsible for much of this injustice, then there will always be a big crack in the U.S. strategy. However, if the United States modifies its attitude toward Arab causes and, in particular, acknowledges the Palestinian people's rights, our people's reaction will change and become positive. The history of wars shows that the popular base has always been a key factor in winning military and political battles. This is what the United States has so far failed to understand after all this time. Is the U.S. initiative an indication of a new approach and a correction of this mistake? We hope so.

Question: What role will the Arab League play in the reconstruction of Lebanon?

Answer: The Arab League obviously has no direct part in this. The 10th Arab summit conference allocated a total sum for the reconstruction of Lebanon, especially the south, and decided that the sum would be paid directly to the Lebanese Government without going through the Arab League.

CSO: 4400/35

PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS

AREA PAPERS URGE ARAB SUPPORT FOR IRAQ

GF031430 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0635 GMT 3 Oct 82

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 Oct (WAKH)--In Qatar, the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH warns against the widescale military operations that are taking place on Iraq's borders. It says: "The size of the Iranian offensive and its apparent objectives so far confirm that the main goal is to penetrate the borders and occupy part of Iraqi territory."

The paper stresses that in the face of such serious developments, all must stop because the matter no longer concerns Iraq alone or the Iraqi borders, independence or security but it exceeds all this to threaten the national security of all the Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf.

AL-RAYAH calls for the implementation of the joint Arab defense agreement in accordance with the Arab Fes summit resolutions not only to assist Iraq in its present defense of its independence and safety of its borders, but also as a confirmation [word as received] of all ambitions in the Arab land.

The QATARI GULF TIMES says that if the conflict between Iraq and Iran continues the rest of the Arabs may have to fulfill the joint defense agreement especially if the Iraqi people are being threatened.

The paper adds this is the reason for such a possibility and not the desire to inflict more harm on Iran. It added that the Gulf states which have long been living in peace with their neighbors realize the importance of Iran as part of the Islamic nation and hope that peace can be achieved because through peace Muslims can stand strongly against their joint enemy.

In Kuwait, AL-WATAN says that the occupation of any foot of the Iraqi territory cannot be accepted by the Arabs or the world because occupation is the same no matter what identity the occupant bears and aggression is the same irrespective of the nationality of the aggressor.

The paper stresses that the principle of national sovereignty to all states of the region must not be subject to bargaining by this party or that, and that dialogue is the ideal way to resolve problems and disputes among states no matter how sizeable these problems or disputes may be.

AL-QABAS calls on the states of the Arab Fes summit to fulfill their promises and answer the Persian defiance not in defense of Iraq alone but also in defense of the dignity of every Arab from the ocean to the Gulf and to secure the safety of every single foot of territory of all the Arab land.

The paper notes that the Arab summit at Fes warned Iran of the necessity to stop the war and respond to the calls for peace and bear responsibility for the support that all the Arabs will offer to Iraq in its steadfast war against the Persian invasion. However, the paper adds, Iran replied through huge deployments as if it were telling the Fes summit Arabs that is challenging them all by its new aggression against the Iraqi borders.

AL-ANBA' calls for supporting Iraq in its war with Iran by way of commitment to the Fes summit resolutions. It says: "The moral stand, not to mention the national commitment toward the honor of responsibility toward the one fate, necessitate proving the extent to which those who signed the summit's resolutions respect what was agreed upon and what was declared by defining the responsibility assigned to each state in the confrontation against aggression."

The paper stresses that the Arab stand on the Iranian aggression will be the last judge and witness against us in the court of history; either we go out to the arena with pride and honor of commitment, or we remain hostages to the cage of defeats, fragmentation and extinction.

CSO: 4400/39

KARMAL ADDRESSES STUDENTS IN BUDAPEST 6 OCTOBER

LD081850 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 8 Oct 82

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and his delegation met Afghan students at 1900 on 6 October in the People's National Army Club of Hungary.

When Babrak Karmal entered the hall of the club, the Afghan students stood to welcome him by chanting slogans and expressing their passionate feelings.

Babrak Karmal delivered a speech:

[Begin recording] Comrades, friends, young Afghan students of the revolutionary Afghanistan.

It is a well known saying that we can make a revolution, that is to say, get power in our hand; perhaps sometimes this might be taken easily, that is to say, political state power. But the important task is the defense of the revolution; any revolution has various stages with long processes, complicated and diverse. Indeed, in the processes of the revolution--having the objective of constructing a new society--this task is extremely difficult and hard.

Today, your colleagues, your friends in the NFF--whether in the DYOA, or as members of the PDPA and other mass and social organizations--are courageously defending the revolution on the side of the armed forces. In one strong front they are fighting against imperialism, [word indistinct], chauvinism, robbery, killing, and saboteurs exported from abroad, particularly from the soil of Pakistan.

Today, large bands are nonexistent in Afghanistan; no large band is able to (?stand) against the DRA armed forces, against the party and government. They, in the shape of small groups of robbers in (?mountains), valleys, and hills, are committing terrorism, destruction and sabotage. However, I assure you that our revolution in Afghanistan is invincible and its victory is imminent. [Applause]

Your cofighters, your friends and your comrades [words indistinct] are being consolidated in the NFF. Undoubtedly, our party, after the new development stage of the revolution, has evolved qualitatively and quantitatively; also

our social organizations have been broadly developed. All the social organizations have a position in the broad NFF under the leadership of the PDPA. At present, membership of the front totals more than 9 million.

We accomplish our revolutionary duties on many fronts. On one hand we forge ahead with our harsh, indefatigable and fearless struggle against terrorism and [word indistinct], against the counterrevolution, internal and external reaction, against U.S.-led imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, regional reaction, [word indistinct], Arab reaction and other of lackeys of imperialism.

Today, the U.S. imperialism--the Reagan administration--is threatening to inflict nuclear war on humanity, civilization. [Words indistinct] the present and future generations, and fan tension in every corner of the world. It embarks on subversion and sabotage against the noble peace proposals of the USSR and other socialist countries, and threatens humanity with nuclear war, it is the duty of all progressive humanity to take an active part in fighting for world peace. We want nationwide peace and security in the country and in our region.

We have put forward some proposals to neighboring countries which [passage indistinct] (?will) solve the differences by political means and by discussions (?around a table). But, despite all the right and principled proposals of the DRA, Pakistan and Iran, because of the instigations of imperialism, have not yet shown complete readiness. But we will resolutely pursue our principled international peace policy. [Passage indistinct]

I felt very happy when assured by the DRA ambassador to Budapest, Comrade Bakhtari, that all Afghans in Hungary--party or nonparty members--are living together as friends and comrades, and with unity. I express my wholehearted gratitude on behalf of the party and state leadership, social organizations, the DYOA, the NFF and the Afghan people. I thank you very much. [Applause]
[End recording]

CSO: 4600/40

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

NEW BULGARIAN ENVOY ARRIVES--Kabul, 12 Oct (BAKHTAR)--Peter Voleanov, the newly-appointed ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the DRA arrived in Kabul today to assume his new post. [Text] [LD130716 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0444 GMT 13 Oct 82]

DOST MEETS WITH UN OFFICIAL--Kabul, 13 Oct (BAKHTAR)--Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, in New York, met with the president of the 37th session of the UN General Assembly on 11 October and talked with him on questions of mutual interest. Dost also met the foreign minister of Mongolia yesterday and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. He also met and held talks with the Maltese minister of foreign affairs. [Text] [LD140650 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0604 GMT 14 Oct 82]

EARTHQUAKE IN HERAT AREA--Kabul, 18 Oct (BAKHTAR)--An earthquake, relatively intense, was felt in Herat and related areas around 2130 am last night. Minor damages to some residential buildings were reported. However, there have been no casualties. [Text] [LD190712 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 19 Oct 82]

NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR ARRIVES--(Zakei Abdul Hamid), the new ambassador of Iraq to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, arrived here today to assume his post. [Text] [LD110412 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 10 Oct 82]

CSO: 4600/40

ALGERIA

SAFEGUARD, RENOVATION OF CASBAH SUPPORTED

ALgiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24, 25, 27-28 Aug 82

[Article by Ammar Belhimer: "The Safeguarding and Renovation of the Casbah"]

[24 Aug 82 p 12]

[Text] [I] The Second Battle of Algiers"]

The magazine writers do not seem to have much trouble finding material. Houses continue to collapse in the Casbah, placing hundreds of families in the streets. The only differences are the number of people involved and the location of the catastrophe. The frequency of the event has made it commonplace, just an incident. We do not stop setting off the alarm, but we are so accustomed to its noise that it has become familiar to us and does not bother us unduly.

Some 100 emergencies in 1975, 400 in 1979, 500 in 1980--12 percent of the 1,700 houses in the Casbah collapsed between 1975 and 1979. The countdown began long ago. At this rate, we will hit zero in less than 50 years.

Everyone agrees that we must act quickly and well, but everyone has his own approach. A new battle of Algiers seems to have begun. The issue is the use to be made of the 80 billion in old currency that the government has just allocated to renovating Algiers' Casbah.

A People's Ingenuity

The Casbah is a real beehive. It is home to 70,000 people. Perhaps more. These people share 1,700 houses in the oldest section of Algiers, 1,200 of them dating from the Turkish era. Three or 4 persons to a room, 6 to 8 to a room in some areas--this is an obvious indication of overpopulation. There are 2,200 residents to the hectare, a density worthy of big modern cities such as New York and Hong Kong. The only difference is that since the Casbah has not taken over space in the sky, it is suffocating under the weight of its population.

The little 45-hectare triangle which comprises the Medina is really an anthill. The houses, which rise one after another from sea level beginning at the

port to the dey fortress, in the shape of an amphitheater with a sharp incline (there is a 15 percent slope), all overlap one another. The whole thing takes on an extremely continuous character, arranged in blocks: macro-structures traversed by a rambling and branching network of streets. The entirety is built on good terrain with a rocky substratum, but the original quality of the soil has been compromised by the combined effects of not using wells, abandoning cisterns and poor drainage.

The houses in the Casbah are priceless in terms of architectural value. The little "aloui" houses, built over business premises, harmoniously coexist with "chbeck" houses which are of the same size each of which is but arranged around an open "wast ed dar" which gets air and light from a rectangular opening (the "chbeck"); they coexist just as well with houses which have porticos of varying size, sometimes imposing, and are also built around courtyards but the courtyard of such a house will have two, three or four porticos with arches or wooden lintels.

The 1716 earthquake, which claimed 20,000 victims, largely affected the Casbah's present configuration. In a study on the seismicity of Algeria dating from the 50's, J.P. Rothe writes: "Following this earthquake, upon the order of the dey, the houses in Algiers were rebuilt as we see them today to resist future quakes, resting against each other as much as possible, with the floors of the upper levels supported by cedar beams extending several feet beyond the walls so as not to collapse even when the walls had just moved apart." These precautions did not affect the quality of life within the houses at all. The houses are surrounded with terraces which overhang a very astute arrangement of levels. The use of common and private spaces is judicious and allows significant advantages.

This is the Casbah. The Algiers of yesterday where, because all a people's ingenuity was invested in it, they lived well. Experts have come to amazing conclusions. The walls and the floors demonstrate remarkable sound- and heat-proofing qualities, the materials used for floor coverings retain coolness, plaster and whitewash made of lime diminish the loss of cool air. "This is a refuge of joy, glory, power, intelligence and splendor, united in calm and serenity," reads an inscription in an 18th century Algerian palace. At the time most of the houses in the Casbah combined these qualities.

The Human Burden

In order to save the Casbah, the density must first of all be diminished. No matter what the cost, it must be relieved of the human burden which is accentuating its deterioration. This is essential, but promises to be difficult to undertake in a wilaya which is being hit hard by the housing crisis. One thousand five hundred dwellings, 400 of them made of concrete and immediately available, are promised. Will the promise survive the attacks of the companies and central administration that are finding no place to house their staffs? Will the emptied houses not be coveted by those who are still living under sheet metal? Dozens of similar questions can be raised. However, it still remains obvious that to halt the physical deterioration of the Casbah it is essential to evacuate some of its population.

Its deterioration is also related to other factors: adding too many stories to the houses, the lack of maintenance and the existence of leaks, the decaying condition of the sewers, and water leakage... The reasons for the deterioration are many, but they are all more or less related to the housing crisis which prevails in and all around the old city: the new occupants of the Casbah do not know their homes very well, the use of space for the sole function of housing throws everything out of balance. So much so that today 60 percent of the unhealthful homes are decaying or require extensive repairs. The conservation effort must therefore deal with the entire heritage.

The Casbah, a residential area, is also a center of business activity which provides 1,500 to 2,000 jobs for a work force 60 percent of whom reside in the area.

Its business is centered around stocking and marketing small- and large-scale manufacturing products. There are 380 booths, 109 shops and 500 small manufacturers of jewelry, clothing, shoes... On the whole these are marginal business activities which are not entirely related either to traditional crafts or to small-scale subcontracted manufacturing. An indication of an industry with no outlets which limits itself to supplying byproducts of modern industry, of poor quality, arriving in the market with ordinary plastic and miscellaneous clothing, perfumes and gadgets from Tati.

This is the lot that history has reserved for the Casbah. But the decline does not date from independence. Colonization moved the center of Algiers from the lower Casbah by directing the city's growth toward the southeast. By moving the center away from the Casbah, it simultaneously drained away some of the Casbah's activities. The existence of two centers in the city foretold the decline of the Casbah. The Casbah would gradually undergo a fatal social sidelining due to the combined effect of its deterioration and a decline in its business.

A balanced urban growth which would restore its full role to the Casbah assumes that the whole west of the city will grow at the same rate as the southeast. To achieve this, say the architects, it is necessary first of all to eliminate the gap, the break, the large void which begins at the end of Che Guevara and Bab-Azzoun Boulevards, and to reestablish the city's unity by building more heavily in the Place des Martyrs. At the same time, it would also be to the Casbah's advantage if there would be some thought about restoring its market. This has already been done--on paper.

The Casbah is physically decaying. Its business activities are in decline and are now assuming a symbolic, marginal character. It is also poor in social and cultural resources. Health services are poor. Twenty-eight thousand pupils are crowded into 30 schools. Only places of worship have survived. Eleven large mosques and five Koranic prayer rooms and schools are still in operation. But, one sees no youth center, no library, not even a sports center.

These are the basic elements of the report. A critical report arising from a serious situation. The administration had decided to make an all out

effort. Isn't it time? Housing and billions have been reserved for the project. What are we going to do with them?

[25 Aug 82 p 12]

[Text] II. The Second Battle of Algiers

It was not until 1968 that a series of studies was focused on the Casbah's problems. Since then, ETAU [expansion unknown], COMEDOR [Permanent Committee for Development, Organization and Planning For the Algiers Metropolitan Area] and UNESCO have continued to be interested, but, however, without their good intentions resulting in any concrete action. As passive observers, they limit themselves to counting up the losses and designing the best plans. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Casbah has been of much greater service to them than they to it: a favored subject of speculation, an inexhaustible source of material for all sorts of work, themes for studies to which entire issues of specialized magazines have been devoted. This has not prevented the buildings from continuing to collapse and an evergrowing population from joining the ranks of the homeless.

The First Steps

The first renovation projects were launched in November 1978. However, they took on an obvious voluntary character. Their promoters say that this is normal; the main thing was to begin. This is the first time that public enterprises set foot in the Casbah. The five largest, the giants of construction, split up the old city. Their participation had the merit of bracing some buildings without trying to understand to whom they belonged. Legal settlement of the property is the second step. When a building begins to show signs of wear, it must be braced. "It's shameful to ask to whom a decaying building belongs," confides a builder. Some 1,057 houses are privately owned. The property of the state, the commune, the land administration and the "haboue" only includes 223 houses. There are 26 classified monuments. Most of the private property owners do not have sufficient resources and consequently cannot from their own means provide the large-scale work that the seriousness of the situation demands.

The DNC [expansion unknown], SONATIBA [National Infrastructure and Building Construction Company], SORECAL [expansion unknown], ECOTEC [National Office for Economic and Technical Studies], and ANARIC [National Reclamation Firm] plunged into this imbroglio to attend to the most urgent matters: to provide for restoration, bracing, demolition, cleaning and buttressing. Due to lack of overall funding, standard materials and qualified labor, they were not able to make a worthwhile contribution. Studies developed since November 1978 have amounted to 6.8 million dinars. The work completed has cost 37.1 million dinars. Ill prepared for the nature of the terrain (narrowness of the streets, inclines), they will encounter transportation problems and will complicate pedestrian traffic within the old city. They will gain valuable experience from their participation. The human and technical foundations for the future national enterprise for renovation have been laid. They must only be strengthened.

As far as studies are concerned, current resources are limited to a staff of 36 people under ETAU. The Casbah group, organized into a multidisciplinary team, is assisted by two experts from UNESCO who were called on under the 1979 agreement which granted the project international funding in the amount of \$400,000 which today is mostly spent.

So far the Casbah has only benefited from sporadic last-ditch attempts. It took until May 1982 for a substantial overall funding package of 80 billion in old currency to be released to implement a project to renovate the Casbah drafted and supported by ETAU. The project divides the Casbah into blocks, three of which are declared to be priorities: Lallahoum, Dar El Ghoulia and Sidi Abdallah. Structural examinations and examinations of the concrete, plumbing, electrical systems and road systems and networks in the first block are in progress. The markets will be next, with two enterprises. The first block of funding will probably be used up then. While the enterprises are completing the work indicated in studies of the first block, ETAU will be preparing studies of the second block, and so on until the entire funding package is used up.

"Decaying buildings presenting a threat to the population are to be completely demolished. They will be gradually evacuated. But, in order to be effective, it is sometimes necessary to evacuate adjoining buildings. The APC [People's Communal Assembly] is to be in charge of the temporary evacuation of about 100 houses in this situation," Mr Boutarfa, head of the Casbah group, tells us. "The most important and concrete action," he continues, "is still operation by blocks. The selection of priority blocks was made based on the state of decay, architectural interest, and the need to fill space to avoid haphazard construction."

Controversies Surrounding Lallahoum

The test block Lallahoum is to be reorganized to accommodate traditional or mixed housing. At the other extreme, Dar El Ghoulia has a very large open area which will be filled with new buildings which fit into the surrounding environment to prevent it from becoming a dump. Finally, within the very heart of the Casbah, the most difficult renovation project will be launched, saving the traditional homes of Sidi Abdallah.

The methods for reorganizing the Lallahoum quarter have given rise to numerous controversies, implicating the prime contractor, in other words the wilaya and ETAU on the one hand and a group of young architects and UNESCO experts on the other. The latter have taken a complaint stating that the studies "are in total contradiction to the principles for preserving old districts recommended by UNESCO" to the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] resident in Algiers.

Four architects and an engineer from the Casbah group also expressed reservations about the prime contractor's demands in a letter addressed to the highest level officials last August.

"The prime contractor's demands," they write, "are to clear the area by razing the entire block area, except for one colonial style residence, one traditional house and two recently renovated houses.

"If this happens, this demolition operation will be repeated in the same spirit to wipe out all of the Casbah, the shrine to our struggles for national independence. The team's proposal...is to save and restore the traditional houses which are in good condition and to demolish the overly decayed houses and place similar dwellings on their sites, to open the area to the outside by extending the major business axis, and to make all the necessary modern improvements."

As far as Mr Belkaid, secretary general of the Ministry of Habitat and Urban Planning, is concerned, the block in question is "decaying, of no historical interest and threatening to collapse."

"The grand strategy for renovation of the Casbah consists of saving what is obviously historic while improving living conditions for its population: allowing them to benefit from the modern conveniences of urban planning, improving drainage... Making out of the Casbah a city where you can get around, shop, take care of yourself. The Casbah must not remain a poor and unhealthful place, an area which is underdeveloped and underequipped for a population in transition. Its renovation must give its population a permanent home."

On the whole, to empty the area around buildings of obvious historic interest in order to develop them, while also introducing progress. In so saying, one thinks of Marais, of Paris, much more than of Venice or the Pyramids.

For the heads of urban planning at the ministry, the controversy is related to "the lack of a project study office and enterprises which are strong enough to do an artist's work with the existing material. But this is not a reason to abandon it. We must act without waiting for the buildings to fall. We must carry out the work even if we make mistakes. An enterprise like this requires that at least two myths be exploded," we are told.

"First of all, one must realize that many people left the Casbah in 1962. It also experienced an exodus. Then, one must recognize that there are fewer buildings to preserve than one might think. The historic restoration is intended to establish the boundaries of the Arab city. Now, many of the houses were built after 1830."

Eighty billion to finance studies and some projects; quotas on the dwellings made available--this should easily allow the ETAU and the enterprises to conduct a program decisive for the future of the entire capital.

[27-28 Aug 82 p 12]

[Text] III Complementarity

The battles which are lost are those which are not fought. This saying applies perfectly to the Casbah. Procrastination almost resulted in its demise. The few signs of life which remain must be revived. Action must be imminent.

This has been done, say officials at all levels. All that remains is to find out in what spirit they intend to act with regard to the situation, and with what goals and methods.

"The people must be reassured," the minister of habitat and urban planning tells us. "We are not tearing down just for the sake of tearing down or the pleasure of it. We are completely aware that the traditional character of the city must be preserved. We are only tearing down what is truly not salvageable."

According to the leader of the sector, the actions planned have a twofold objective: "The Casbah development policy is aimed at restoring the Casbah on the one hand, and at integrating it within greater Algiers and locating various joint facilities there, on the other."

"The Casbah is not an Indian reservation," states Mr Belkaid, secretary general of the Ministry of Habitat and Urban Planning. "It is necessary," he continues, "to salvage what has no architectural and historic value, the piles of debris, in order to clear the city and to improve the living conditions for the people."

In short: "To preserve the jewel and take advantage of open spaces to locate facilities. It is in this way that we will save the Casbah. There is no question of its remaining a city of transients, of the poorly housed and those who have been left behind. This is the change that must be brought about."

How does the ETAU intend to carry out this change?

Its general director, Mr Lies Hamidi, seems confident: "ETAU is all the more prepared to participate effectively since the Casbah project is completely mature. Our team has acquired a great stock of experience resulting from continuous work on the matter for more than 10 years. It has perfected quality studies prepared with the twofold concern of reconciling the imperatives of protection and preservation related to the historic character of the site, a valuable testament to the heroic struggles of our people and a jewel of Algerian architecture, on the one hand, with the urgent and obvious need of the people to live in an agreeable environment on the other hand, resulting in the necessity of renovating it to allow them to benefit from all the conveniences of modern life."

"The ETAU team of architects and engineers responsible for working on the matter has the necessary skills to accomplish this mission successfully. The contributions of the UNESCO experts have also been valuable to us. It will soon be 4 years that we have been benefiting from the technical support of this international institution through the presence of specialists with whom our youth have been able to perfect their knowledge and to make progress in a field which is as complex as it is new: the restoration of historic sites."

"It goes without saying that the large part of our efforts is obviously based on national resources, since the Casbah project is first of all a

national project. The goals decided upon are within our reach. Today we have a means of intervention which is to prevent us from wasting resources and energy: this is the development plan adopted by ministerial decree this year.

"In a relatively short period of time, ETAU has prepared the preliminary studies and contracts must be made continuously between the prime contractor, in this case the wilaya, and the national enterprises. Planning for gradual action is to allow us to effectively tackle first of all the districts which are decaying the most, and then the rest of the city. The test block Lallahoum, then Dar El-Ghoula, then Sidi Abdallah--these are the priorities selected which cover several aspects: restoration, reorganization, development, new construction."

/Isn't it necessary to give preference to historic and cultural aspects over other concerns such as construction of apartment buildings?/ [Passage enclosed in slantlines printed in italics.]

"The Casbah is a historic legacy, a source of artistic and architectural inspiration which is our pride and the object of our foreign friends' admiration. But, it is also a place where close to 100,000 people live. How do we make it both an agreeable living environment and a historic site? These are our concerns, but we are not approaching them as contradictory. There is complementarity and harmony between the residential and cultural characteristics of the site. This complementarity finds its natural expression in the development plan drafted by ETAU, a national research office."

The Proposals Presented

Two proposals are broached in the project to save and renovate the old city of Algiers.

The first proposal conforms to the development plan approved by ministerial decree. It recommends the development of two key areas:

-Restoration of the fortress and its surroundings, an area of cultural influence for the whole capital.

-Development of the port area, a crossroads area and a liaison with the rest of the city.

Safeguard and Renovation

This approach originates in a concern to restore urban interest to the Casbah and to collect the necessary capital and resources to save existing buildings. In fact, development of the port area and the lower Casbah is to be achieved through a program of providing modern facilities requiring large investments: the metro line will go beyond the Casbah; the expressway through a tunnel under the Boulevard du Premier Novembre can be entrusted to the same enterprise; underground parking is planned; a bus station, also

underground, is to leave open the space above ground to allow the Casbah and the modern city to be connected.

The basic objective of the plan is the safeguarding and renovation of the Casbah. The procedure designed for this purpose consists of proceeding by block, or by quarter, beginning with an overall study (sociological, census, state of decay, typology) and work studies (cleanup, removal of added extra stories). The operation by sector deals with a small group of houses, plans for which are submitted to the enterprise by the research office, according to a schedule staggering them over several years.

It is based on the principle of restoring all the traditional houses which can be saved and restored as stated in the development plan.

A trial operation should be initiated in a block selected for its accessibility, its advanced state of decay and the availability of open space for new facilities. The Lallahoum block mentioned offers the research office, the Casbah staff and the enterprise every guarantee for this type of operation.

Along with this block-by-block operation, an emergency program has been set up involving demolition, cleaning up demolition sites, reinforcing adjoining walls by rejoining, establishing various facilities and settling the legal problem. This last point is very important.

In fact, a need is making itself felt to draft a Casbah ordinance specifically delimiting the borders of the safeguarded area, strictly regulating use of the sites, and organizing the state and property owners to participate in the conservation effort.

Demolition and New Construction

The second proposal entrusts restoration of the fortress to the Ministry of Culture. Secondly, it recommends reorganization of the port area (lower Casbah): metro; roadway on a viaduct over the water; 1,400 parking places and a bus station with 40 platforms to carry 200,000 persons a day, using all the space available behind the buildings on Boulevard du Premier Novembre and running 3 meters above ground level in front of the great mosque, thus creating a break in the route between upper and lower Casbah and obviously preventing any activities other than those related to transportation and travel. Some feel these projections are excessive: the metro replaces a station and other underground parking is planned throughout Algiers. Finally, the project recommends the construction of modern apartment buildings on the land recovered in the lower Casbah.

So, the intention to demolish the Casbah and build new buildings has been attributed to it: "The block-by-block operation is no longer intended to save all the salvageable houses, but rather to judge the chances for saving the whole block in view of the principle of modernness and the large facilities that it implies," comments a young architect. Large projects

are planned for the recovered land. The construction of some facilities for which studies have been completed or are in progress is planned, as are demolition, clearing of sites where buildings collapsed, and strengthening adjoining walls.

The methods of operation promise to be limited (problem of work sites). Study procedures are those of standard offices working on new building projects and involving existing buildings in order to justify the expenses involved. Actually, the architects maintain, the nature of the terrain calls for small-scale work and "intermediate studies." Under current conditions, as the enterprises are only working case by case, they will complete the projects that are studied first. It is essential to wonder about the priority granted to the studies: existing building or new project.

"Plans for new projects are in progress. They will require 4 to 5 years of work. Meanwhile the deterioration of the Casbah may continue and may even worsen. It will then require demolition and excavation. As a result it will be impossible to restore the traditional houses."

On a legal level, the problem is not perceived in an overall manner, except for expropriation if an entire block is demolished. A void such as this will prevent reoccupation of the renovated areas by inhabitants of the Casbah. A certain social discrimination therefore ensues. The problem then becomes political: space in the Casbah is being reappropriated for new interests. The zoning recommended for the Algerian urban center tends to push the socially disadvantaged classes out of the city.

Another Casbah To Save in Annaba

The Casbah in Algiers is not the only one to restore. All the old cities in the country are in critical condition. This is the case of Annaba in particular, an old Ottoman city covering 13.5 hectares. Twenty-four thousand people live there in unsafe dwellings. Four thousand forty households, with an average of six persons each, have been counted there. Fifty-six percent of the dwellings have one room only. They are almost all connected to sewers, running water and electrical networks, but are disturbingly inconvenient: only 47 percent have kitchens, 12 percent have private toilets, and 8 percent have showers.

The legal status of the property is more or less similar to that of the Casbah. However, more of the property is privately owned. Only 3 percent of the houses are abandoned. But, their occupants cannot undertake the work on their own. Their average income was 1,500 dinars per household per month in 1980. Savings are low: 29 percent of the population said they were saving for housing and 24 percent belong to the CNEP [Algerian National Savings and Insurance Bank].

To begin with, the old city of Annaba is in a favorable location: in the urban center and near the port. Its districts, however, are arranged in what seems to be an enclave. The buildings are in an advanced state of deterioration: overpopulation, lack of maintenance, and the effects of

water are accelerating the phenomenon. The overall density of the area is as high as in Algiers: 2,000 residents per hectare.

The lack of maintenance seems to be related to absentee ownership: 85 percent of the occupants are renters. This curbs any investment in preservation of the buildings.

In a recent study, the UNDP, CADAT [Territorial Development Fund], and CNERU [expansion unknown] suggest three directions for action.

As far as infrastructures are concerned, resurfacing and marking the two major thoroughfares at 1,000 meter intervals, some repairs to the tertiary network and gradual repair of the sewer system are recommended.

Work on a test block through renovating certain buildings, demolishing others and restoring support systems is also proposed. The third item is intended to improve the collection of household waste. The study is not ambitious. Rather, it tends to launch operations at the modest cost of 5 million dinars within the context of an overall plan to eliminate unsafe housing through restructuring four districts: Bou Hammra, Beni M'haffeur, Sidi Brahim and the old city.

9693

CSO: 4519/298

BRIEFS

SYRIAN STATEMENT ON 'ARAFAT--Within the framework of continuous attacks against the statement issued by a minister of one of the steadfastness countries criticizing Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, AL-ADWA' newspaper, which is published in Manama, strongly attacks the statement issued by the Syrian information minister against Yasir 'Arafat. The newspaper asks: Isn't it strange that an Arab regime interferes in pure Palestinian affairs that concern only the PLO? It adds: We hoped that the last Fes summit would put an end to such interference from the Arab regimes. It says that these regimes forgot about their bitter relenting stance when the Palestinians were facing 120,000 Israeli soldiers. The newspaper asks: Where was this voice when the Lebanese and Palestinian civilians were slaughtered, butchered and buried by the Israeli bulldozers in a savage manner? AL-ADWA' affirms that the revolutionary theories and principles have fallen before the ideology of blood, that is to say, death for the sake of liberating homelands and attaining right. [Excerpt] [GF161147 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 16 Oct 82]

U.S. ISRAELI SUPPORT--Manama, 17 Oct (WAKH)--AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ today inquires about the meaning of the U.S. stance on the main Arab issue, Palestine. In this regard, the newspaper comments on the last statement issued by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on halting his country's contribution to the Nuclear Energy Agency and on the suspension of Israel's membership in the United Nations. The newspaper says: The United States, hence, can pawn the entire international community for the sake of Israel and for the sake of the strategic alliance which is aimed at safeguarding the future U.S.-Israeli objectives in the Arab and Middle East regions. It adds: By siding with Israel, even in the shadow of the bad reputation of the Zionist enemy entity after the destruction of Lebanon and after the massacres in the camps, the United States wants to prove to us before anyone else that without submission to Israel and surrender to its ambitions, no peace can be achieved in the region. The newspaper concludes its editorial by saying that the United States is quite logical in its policy and plans, but what is not logical is the belief that the solution can still be found somewhere under the tomb of the White House and the belief that there are real changes in the U.S. understanding--to an understanding that is in favor of the just conditions of peace. [Excerpt] [GF170943 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Oct 82]

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE--Manama, 16 Oct (WAKH)--His Highness the Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman al-Khalifah received here today the Djibouti president's envoy Industry and Industrial Development Minister Fahmi Ahmad El Hag. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Salman al-Khalifah and Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs. Following the meeting, the Djibouti envoy said that he delivered a written message from Djibouti President Hassan Gouled that deals with the latest developments in the Arab arena and the situation in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea in particular, in addition to bilateral relations. In his statement, the Djibouti minister expressed his country's satisfaction over the positive role played by the state of Bahrain in remedying all the problems in the Arab region. In conclusion, the Djibouti envoy said that the Amir of Bahrain gave him a written message for the Djibouti president. [Text] [GF161033 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 10 Oct 82]

CSO: 4400/38

PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENT WORKER PRODUCTIVITY, CONDITIONS REVIEWED

Red Tape Causes Explored

Cairo AL-'AMAL in Arabic No 232, Sep 82 pp 24, 25

/Article by Victor Salamah/

/Text/ Once again the slogan of increasing production is being raised in our midst.

For many years, we have been raising the slogan of increasing production; for many years we have been incessantly calling for increased production; however, unfortunately, the years have gone by and the slogans have not disappeared, nor has production increased.

As the slogan of increasing production is being picked up and raised again nowadays, everyone has rallied around it again, and the question is, Why?

Because this time the call is not a slogan but an appeal for a clear program of action and carefully studied scientific programs, and because this time the call is the only road to salvation, now that we have kept suffering and suffering until we have become distressed by suffering and have gone out looking for salvation.

Therefore this time we do not have doubts about the sincerity of the appeal because it has been accompanied by executive steps and because it has come from the base; it has not come down to the base from the summit.

Because this time the appeal is sincere, it must in my opinion embrace all the foundations of production. What does it mean when we demand that a worker in a factory and a peasant in a field increase production, while we let the government employee roam about in a state of indifference, spending the hours of the day wandering around in the middle of the city, far away from the office and from responsibilities?

We are not leading "government employees" into the accused persons' box here in order to put them on trial. However, we are discussing the issue of production in the service sector, which the government takes charge of through its employees, in the quest for greater and better production.

At the beginning, we are not directing accusations against "government employees"--rather, we are seeking and calling for increased production. Why are people always repeating "Come by tomorrow" until that has become a shopworn phrase? Why does the copying-out of a certificate from the Real Estate Registry, for instance, take months? Why shouldn't the acquisition of a copy of a birth certificate take place on the same day, instead of taking weeks which are lost in going between the health centers and the civil registry offices? Why? Why? The examples around us abound.

While we are not directing accusations against "government employees," we have not found any way to avoid putting them in the accused persons' box, and they must prove their innocence. If they are, indeed, innocent, who is responsible for this sloth in finishing people's work in the government bureaus? Who is responsible for having the old popular saying "Government day, in a year" repeated to this day, as we are on the brink of the 21st century?

Who Is Responsible?

While searching for the persons who are responsible, we had a discussion with Dr Fathiyah al-Nabrawi, professor of administration at al-Azhar University. My question was:

"There is no doubt that we have made rapid forward progress as a result of the economic and social developments which the government has gone through in recent years. The government agencies were supposed to keep abreast of this development and catch up with the progress in it. However, the lengthy procedures, for instance, remain as they were in all the government departments. Why are dealings with government employees still a problem?"

Dr Fathiyah al-Nabrawi said,

"We must admit that administration in government departments bears all the characteristics of backwardness, and is marked by deep-rooted complexity, sloth, red tape, corruption, rottenness and alienation from the citizen. For the most part, that may be ascribed to the influence of environmental factors on government administration. Villages still are backward relative to towns and services and they lack recreation facilities; this has prompted employees to be adamant about remaining in the towns, even if their roots are in the village. Employees coming from the villages bring their habits with them into the administrative system. The hospitality and receptiveness which prevail in the villages are transferred to government bureaus and offices and it has become normal for these employees to meet guests in government offices and offer them glasses of tea, cups of coffee and so forth.

"What one cannot doubt is that the employees' lack of sense of responsibility and importance of time, their lack of concern with appointments and the low level of accuracy in their output, along with their extreme slowness, are only qualities that constitute an extension of the customs of rural society.

"On the other hand, whether they come from the village or were brought up in the town, while they can be characterized by genuineness, patience, forbearance, social solidarity, acceptance of reality, innate shrewdness, simplicity, tolerance,

goodness, generosity, loyalty, magnanimity and cleverness, Egyptians in general can also be characterized by indifference, unwillingness to admit gaps in knowledge and understanding of the essence of matters, refusal to change, smugness, and concern with appearances at the expense of essentials, in addition to some negative features that have recently become prevalent among them, such as carelessness, laxity, a lack of cultural awareness, a sense of lack of commitment and a failure to bear responsibility.

"That may be attributed to the population explosion, the spread of illiteracy and inflation, and the absence of national training and education plans to serve national development plans."

The Federalization of Administration

I wondered, "What is the solution?"

Dr Fathiyah al-Nabrawi said,

"One must review the policy of training and education, develop it in a manner that is in keeping with government administration's role in bringing about economic and social development, and guarantee that the specialized and administrative staffs and skilled and technical labor required for it are available. One must also conduct periodic studies in every unit of the government's administrative apparatus to determine deficiencies in the element of work and their effect on the attainment of the goals of the units, to follow up on the reasons for the emergence of this lack of personnel and strive, through effective methods of supervision and administrative rules, to reduce this as far as possible, in order to raise the competence of administrative activity in the government units."

Dr Sayyid al-Huwari says:

"We need a new strategy founded first on a solution to the problem of bureaucratic centralism, which still governs activity in government bureaus. There are financial bills spelling out financial powers which might be limited and incompatible with freedom of action, and there are civil service bills including rules bearing on salaries, promotions and penalties that are incompatible with the requirements of competent performance. This sort of unsuitable bill of course leads to inflexibility. Inflexibility leads to excessive centralism. Centralism encourages the making of exceptions to get the job done. Exceptions are considered patronage from other people's point of view. Chiefs might not be happy with the patronage and might intervene to set out further bills, as a consequence of which the complexity increases. The increase in complexity leads again to increased patronage, and so forth.

"The truth of the problem is that there is a maximum the administrative system is able to administer, and we are now suffering from a 'glut' in the administrative system. I do not mean that we are suffering from excess labor. Rather, what we are actually suffering from is poor planning in administration. Even assuming that there is excess labor, one can use that to improve performance so that use may be made of these idle capabilities, which are Egypt's most precious capital.

"How can there be excess labor in the government sector at a time when we are complaining of poor service performance? Why don't we use this labor to improve performance for the citizen and eliminate the lines of citizens waiting to get services carried out, for instance to acquire a driver's license, pay a telephone bill, or other things the citizens are suffering from every day?

"Although the size of the administrative system has increased in a manner where it cannot be managed, one must think of a new method of administration, not a method which depends on the notion of centralization or decentralization but rather a method which depends on the notion of 'federalization' of administration. Here, the system of administration by bills is transformed into a system that is close to one of administration by goals and results."

Defense of the Employees

Dr Sa'd al-Huwari went on to say:

"Although the commitment to appointing university graduates is responsible for the lack of optimum use of the human powers at work in the government bureaus, we really must assert here that it is the system of education that is primarily responsible for the problem of bureaucracy. Diplomas are the criterion of education, and a person who does not have a diploma is not educated even if he knows a great deal. Every diploma in Egypt has a price. University diplomas take pride of place among credentials. People run away from institutes, considering technical education to be a second class education.

"Therefore any reform of administration that does not create modifications in the system of education is a reform which will of necessity be ineffective.

"In another area, the progress of work in the government departments cannot be carried out in the context of a system of administration by activities, since the commitment is restricted to satisfying appearances and working longer without devoting attention to actual requisite accomplishment.

"It is indeed strange that bureaucratic bills prohibit the termination of workers except for acts detrimental to honor; consequently it is not strange that we find employees in government bureaus who constitute a burden on the job but whose whole assets are just that they do not violate bills. They have learned the famous rules of the 'game'--if you work a great deal you will err a great deal--and therefore work the minimum, which entails no responsibility, and commit themselves to the letter of the bills.

"Excessive sympathy makes it possible for a large number of people to obtain high evaluations in performance appraisals, although the performance itself is low. We notice this phenomenon a great deal in government agencies. Laxity makes it possible for incompetent employees to stay in their places for a long time. Therefore, the progress of administration is to a large degree connected to the development of the system of rewards and penalties, where rewards for good achievements are agreed upon and penalties must be relative to the mistakes attributed to performance.

A Final Word

"We can now assert that the problem is attributable primarily to inflexible conditions, notions and methods which are not in keeping with the requirements of society. However, what always appears in the picture is 'the employee who is burdened down by bills and instructions' to the point where dealing with him becomes a problem, and he misses the things that are not given to him. How can we demand that a 'government employee' solve people's problems when his own are not solved?"

"The time has come for a great awakening in the government system. The time has come for a radical change in the system of lines waiting for specific times for advancement; on the other hand, the time has also come to take account of the other lines in the streets, in the middle of town or at other work sites besides those where government salaries are drawn. The time has come to evaluate all these people's work and performance, to serve the masses and to alleviate sufferings."

Government Workers' Problems Listed

Cairo AL-'AMAL in Arabic No 232, Sep 82, pp 26-30

/Article by 'Adil Hamam/

/Text/ Egyptian government employees have the right to feel an all-encompassing joy. They might be the only ones of God's creatures who enjoy and possess a great amount of employment legislation and bills, because the top administrative lords feel that the employees' continued happiness is linked to a continued flow of employment legislation. Since the noise over the very famous law which bears the number 83, and its successive offshoots, has started to die down and since it is not reasonable that the employment scene should be left to stabilize itself and grow calm, even for a short period, one must therefore solve this serious problem! The easy, facile solution is to amend the current employees' law.

However, it remains for us to state that this law which is to be amended bears the number 47, and the date it went into effect is 1 July 1978. That is, only 4 years and 60 days have elapsed since it went into effect, and no more! In order to round out the picture and make it clearer, it is important that we point out that this law came in just 7 years after a law that had preceded it, bearing the number 58, issued in 1971. This latter law came out after 7 years also, taking the place of the law on employees which was known as Law 46 for 1964, which was issued after Law 210 for 1951 ceased to apply.

The Packed Register:

Thus the Egyptian employee is fortunate. Four laws have been issued for him and on his behalf in about 30 years, that is, at a rate of one law every seven and a half years. This of course is on top of the register which is packed with further employment legislation, starting with laws on non-promotion and administrative reform and ending with Law 83 and the series of laws that was derived from that--to tabulate which would constitute an oppressive burden on the human intellect.

Now the higher administrative bodies are engaged and engrossed in setting out amendments to the existing law on civilian employees in the government. More than one question and more than one question mark stand out insistently and intensively.

The Essence of the Issue

At the forefront of these of course lies the query that is related to the essence and true nature of the employment problem in Egypt and whether the problem is related to promotions, relationships, competence reports, job organizations and descriptions, the pricing of diplomas or what, exactly and specifically.

Then, if these or other factors account for the causes of the employment problem, why don't the existing employees' law and the numerous laws that preceded it represent a needed remedy?

This leads us to another question; if all these laws in their totality have not brought about a remedy or solution, does the fault lie in the laws themselves, or may it be attributed to the fact that the employee laws in Egypt are issued for personal motives and designs and under political pressures more than to respond to proper employment considerations and principles?

From Law 210 to Law 47

It is obvious that dotting the i's and trying to come up with an answer to all these questions requires that we first cast a quick glance at the legislation and laws on government employees. The real beginning of the first integrated legislation on government employees in Egypt came in 1951, when Law 210 was issued; before that, the legislation regulating employment affairs had been haphazard and diverse. Among the legislation were what was known as the laws on forgotten employees and fairness and other laws; there was no clear definition of principles, employment statutes or employee rights and duties until Law 210 appeared. The government's objective in this law was to deeply implant the rule that employment would be based on the job and its importance, not on the employee and the diplomas he possessed. The law also stipulated the percentages for promotions which would be made by selection on the basis of competence in all grades, starting with 20 percent of the promotions from Grade Eight to Grade Seven and ending with 100 percent of the promotions to Grade One, in order to encourage competent persons to advance more rapidly up the employment ladder.

Law 46

Then, after that, Law 46 for 1964 issued the statute on civilian employees in the government, explicitly spelling out descriptions, evaluations and orders of positions. Indeed, the legislators made execution of the law contingent on completion of the description and ordering process. However, there was not enough time to complete this process, so Law 158 for 1964 was issued, explicitly stating that execution of the provisions related to the ordering of positions in the employee law was to be delayed. Thus wages were determined in accordance with the employees and the academic credentials they possessed, not the work involved in the position itself.

This law also for the first time spelled out a system for encouragement raises for people of exceptional competence or people who had exerted special efforts, but the Ministry of Finance rapidly issued a periodic booklet demanding all ministries and departments to refuse to grant such raises, in order to control spending.

Law 58

Then Law 58 for 1971 was issued, once again asserting that the system for organizing positions was to be adopted and demanding that every administrative unit in the government set out a table of positions, including a description of each position and a definition of the duties, responsibilities and conditions that must be met by the people occupying it. That is, the financial link to employment levels and classes in this law was to be made to the position the employee was occupying, not the academic credentials the employee had acquired.

Law 47

The year 1978 witnessed the issuance of a new law for people working in the government, Law 47, which contained a chart of wages and devoted attention to a number of considerations, among them a reduction in the number of employment gradations, so that the new grades would be matched by real positions. This included a raise in the initial appointment level for all credentials, not to mention other raises in all employment grades.

Newly-Devised Provisions

The law contains newly-devised provisions with respect to the measurement of workers' competence in performing the work and the tasks of the position, basing the measurement of competence on objective foundations and opening opportunities for the position, so that the objective of the position will be realized. In addition, the law stipulated that evaluation of the employee's competence rating would take place three times each year so that the employee would feel that his chiefs were monitoring him and evaluating his work at roughly equal intervals. The law made it mandatory that mediocre employees be notified of the aspects of their performance which were mediocre a specific period before the year ended so that they would not be surprised when they received competence evaluations at a mediocre rating without prior notification or warning, and could seek to improve their performance level. To have the reports provide incentives for employees, the law stipulated that the names of exceptional employees would be announced, to prompt them to continue their exceptional performance and prompt others to compete with them, thus raising everyone's performance level.

We now return to the question that has been raised: have these laws remedied the problems of government employment in Egypt?

Wages, Wages!

Mr Mustafa Hammudah, director general of employee affairs in the Ministry of Manpower, said, "In my opinion:

"The real problem with government employment lies essentially in the wages. Unfortunately, none of the previous and current employee laws have remedied this problem. Rather, they have continued to move around in labyrinths and semantics that have not in any way, near or far, contributed to a solution to the problem. None of these laws have any goal except to define employment designations and grades. At one point the law has adopted the system of grades, as was the situation in the context of Law 210 for 1951, at one point the titles are converted into classes within employment levels, as was the case with Law 46 for 1964, at a third point another law comes along, stipulating that the groups are to be kept, while the levels are abrogated--and then we are soon surprised, a fourth time, to find that classes are eliminated and turned into grades, as was stipulated by the current Employees' Law 47 for 1978."

Mr Mustafa Hammudah raises another issue, stating:

"With the issuance of each new law, a brilliant slogan is raised, bringing everyone the glad tidings that the pricing of diplomas is to be eliminated. This, in reality, is an illogical slogan and is not compatible with the special conditions each position demands of the people holding it. The employees' wages can be defined only on the basis of credentials and expertise, or on the basis of the level of living expenses; there is no other criterion for the definition."

Imports of Laws!

The director general of employee affairs in the Ministry of Manpower went on to assert that many of the principles and rules contained in employee laws in Egypt were copies from employee laws abroad, regardless of the extent to which those laws are compatible to and suited for our employment environment. An example of that is the system of specific employment groups and the criteria for the ordering of positions spelled out by the provisions of Law 47 for 1978. This system is appropriate to an employment environment which does not suffer from an inflated volume of surplus labor or the aggravated phenomenon of disguised unemployment, which is the case here in Egypt, where we are suffering from this problem and there are many overlapping positions.

Specific Groups and Blatant Discrepancies!

"In addition, one result of the adoption of the system of specific employment groups has been blatant discrepancies, where younger people have seniority over their elders because one employment group is closed off and another one is open. To clarify the picture further, we have divided positions in the Ministry of Manpower, for example, into 15 specific employment groups. These include groups that have a large number of positions, such as the social service group, as opposed to other groups which contains only a limited number of positions, such as the legal group. Therefore an employee in the former group will find broader scope for promotion and consequently increased salaries than his colleague in the latter group.

"To eliminate this sort of situation, I demand that review be made of the system of employment groups lest the financial status of employees be affected for reasons they have nothing to do with."

Laws To Placate!

Mr Mustafa Hammudah touched upon another dimension of the employment problem in Egypt: "This dimension, in my opinion, is connected to the issuance of laws and decrees that are characterized by haste and lack thorough study. Their objective is just to respond to an opinion or observation a senior official has expressed. The example of that which is the closest to hand is the elimination of the job designation for the position of deputy minister and its replacement by the title of sector chief, while the areas of competence, burdens, responsibilities, salaries and benefits are retained. Is it just the word 'deputy minister' which is the problem? Do the gentlemen who hastened to take this decision realize that an employee who becomes a deputy minister reaches this position only after getting to be 58 or 59, and indeed might occupy it for only a few months before he is retired? Will we begrudge this sort of employee, who has sacrificed 30 or 40 years of his life in government service, a moral and honorary recognition--I am not saying a material one, because we all know that in the context of the liberalization policy and the new social structure that has come to characterize Egyptian society, any starting employee in an investment company or bank will receive twice the salary a deputy minister does?"

Peripheral Laws Cause the Problem!

Another diagnosis of government positions in Egypt is offered us by Mr Khalil Ibrahim Hasan, director general of employment affairs in the General Social Insurance Authority.

In his opinion, the problem does not lie in the proliferation of government employee laws, from Law 210 for 1951 to the most recent one, Law 47, which was issued in 1973. It lies, rather, basically, in the application of peripheral laws which essentially conflict with the principles and rules the basic laws were aimed at. Among these are the laws on nonpromotion and employment reform which produced collective promotions just to keep employees in their last employment position for specific periods, in the case of nonpromotion, or for specific years in overall service, in the case of employment reform--regardless of whether there were real positions to which the workers could be promoted whether everyone involved in the promotions actually deserved to be promoted in light of the extent of their sacrifice and functional competence.

This is all of course not to mention the famous Law 83 and the series of laws connected to it, including Laws 111, 112, 125 and 142, all of which conflict with the notion of employment that the laws on employees are based on and do not amount to more than a response to pressures from groups of employees.

A Disruption in the Employment Structure

The director general of employment affairs in the Insurance Authority went on to say:

"In addition, a disruption in the employment structure has resulted from these peripheral laws. The chief has become a subordinate, seniority and salaries have become the criteria of credentials which are not being granted for the time being, people with intermediate credentials have become higher-ranking than those with higher credentials, and it has become difficult to make promotions, whose

percentage has in reality become frozen, especially now that Law 47 has merged the employment grades into a very limited number of grades, which causes frustration for the employee who must remain 7 or 10 years in a single grade and does not have a sense of his value or ambitions there.

An Allowance for the Burdens of the Position

"To solve this problem, I recommend that a new system be adopted which is founded on spelling out an allowance for the burdens of each position, the greater the responsibilities and burdens of the position. The employee who occupies the position should assume this burden and, if he has not been successful in bearing the burdens of the position, he should be moved to another position with the same allowance, provided that that all be done in the context of an organizational structure in each body which will comprise a central gradation of positions, from ordinary positions to those of reviewer, section head, deputy director, director and director general and ending with sector chief, with an allowance for burdens for each position which will be in keeping with the responsibilities the position demands and which the person engaged in the position receives. The execution of this recommendation will have the effect of turning the laws on employees into mere laws on positions, thereby making the slogan of the right employee for the right position reality and ending the problem of promotions, which occupy the attention of every employee."

The Labor Movement and Laws on Employees

The Egyptian labor movement has not been unmindful of the problems of government employees. Foremost among the general unions which deal with these problems has been the General Education Service Union--this is natural, considering that it represents a broad sector of people working in the government sector.

The union member Mukhtar Yusuf, head of the union and board member of the General Federation of Workers, states,

"It is true that while we said that the development issue is basically connected to stability and the provision of appropriate circumstances for the workforce in Egypt, it becomes very important to solve problems that lead to instability. Of course no one denies that wages constitute the main cause and problem of manpower in Egypt; however, in spite of this fact, one should note that none of the legislation bearing on employees deals with this issue in a decisive manner; this legislation does not amount to more than temporary tranquilizers.

The Basis of the Remedy

"If we want to put out a law for employees which will provide for their material stability and will offer them appropriate circumstances in which to improve the level of administration and increase production, we must put our hands on the basis of the remedy, which is the problem of wages. I can bluntly state that it is not reasonable, in the context of the circumstances of Egyptian society now, that the minimum wage should not /sic/ be less than 40 pounds, enabling employees only to meet the essential requirements of life."

Problems of Evaluation and Description

The head of the Education Service Union continued his discussion, specifying the areas of deficiency and the flaws that the practical application of Law 47 for 1978 and the decrees executing that had revealed. He asserted that one of the most conspicuous problems this law created, one which had caused large numbers of employees sleepless nights since it was issued, was the problem of evaluation, description and provision of tenure. On this subject, he stated, "The development of management has been desirable, but that must not be done by transferring or importing theories from abroad and trying to apply them to the employment environment in Egypt without reviewing the extent to which they are in keeping with and suited to our own employment conditions.

"Law 47 stipulates that the administrative bodies must carry out the process of evaluation, description and provision of tenure after the opinion of the Central Organization and Administration Agency has been received. Unfortunately, however, that has led to serious discrepancies, since the agency chairman's decree on the evaluation and description process has been harmful to all the capable persons present and has created flagrant discrimination among people without credentials, people with intermediate credentials and people with higher credentials."

The Bewildered Group!

The union head explained this discrimination by saying:

"In past years, the volume of labor in the government sector was much smaller than it is now; as a result of that, administrative and clerical positions faced a severe shortage in the labor they required. To solve this problem, the government ministries, departments and authorities sought the aid of ordinary auxiliary service employees whose competence had been established to occupy clerical positions. These employees remained a long time in their positions and settled into the function of clerical work. However, we were taken by surprise by the decrees on the provision of tenure issued by the Central Organization and Administration Agency, which stipulated that the rule would be that the employee would be given tenure in the position and employment grade at which he was appointed at the start of his employment career, regardless of his current employment situation.

"The problem of this group of employees still exists and has not yet been given a solution.

Intermediate Credentials and Supervisory Positions

"In addition, another serious problem has arisen from the execution of the decrees on description and provision of tenure. These decrees have prevented people holding intermediate credentials from occupying supervisory positions, although many of them actually have, by virtue of their expertise, reached supervisory positions in most government bodies. Rather, in accordance with the decrees on description and the provision of tenure, employees who hold intermediate credentials and have reached their supervisory positions as a result of their expertise and seniority must return to the ranks of 'clerks' and be supervised by persons no older than

their children, just because the latter have obtained higher credentials. That causes these employees psychological frustration and kills the new generation's ambitions to reach a supervisory position in the future.

"We have requested that this problem be solved on the basis of the statute in effect in the public sector, which is known as the statute on alternates, which stipulates that in order to occupy a supervisory position one must either possess just a higher credential or possess an intermediate credential and have a specific number of years of experience. That is, experience here is considered an alternative to higher credentials."

The union man Mukhtar Yusuf, chairman of the Education Service Union, concluded by asserting that the Egyptian trade union movement was taking these problems on and had prepared a memorandum on them for the prime minister.

The Central Organization and Management Agency

It is still necessary that we hear the opinion of the Central Organization and Management Agency regarding the problems and issues we have presented in this investigation and also ascertain the most prominent features of the amendments that will be made in the law on government employees.

New Amendments to Law 47

Dr Muhammad al-Dimasi, director general of personnel affairs in the agency, says,

"At the outset, we must accept the fact that all laws must be a reflection of the economic and social developments the society is experiencing. This naturally applies to laws bearing on employees. In this context, the amendments that were to be introduced into Law 47 for 1978 on Civilian Government Employees are being made in response to the developments which have taken place in Egyptian society and are also aimed at eliminating the flaws and negative features which we have noticed and which have been raised through the practical application of this law.

Encouragement Raises

"On the subject of encouragement raises, the special stipulation on these raises in the current law requires that no more than 10 percent of the number of people working in each grade within each specific employment group receive these raises if they have received evaluations of excellent in the past 2 years. However, it has become apparent that this stipulation has harmed some employees; therefore the amendments contain a new stipulation requiring that encouragement raises be granted to people working in bodies where the 10 percent ratio has not been reached in some grades in their employment groups.

Competence Reports and Higher Positions

"In addition, the amendments have created a comprehensive arrangement for the system of competence reports on people occupying higher management positions, since the existing law and preceding laws lacked a stipulation on that. In fact,

the current Law 47 exempts people occupying Grade One positions from competence reports, and Law 210 for 1951 even exempted people occupying Grade Two positions from such reports.

"No one denies that these exemptions conflict with the even handedness the legislative power hoped to realize in setting out the system of periodic reports, since these are considered tantamount to incentives to workers to improve their performance. Thus it is logical that this system should be applied in the first place to people occupying higher positions, since they are the group that takes charge of the tasks of planning and drawing up general policies. Therefore it is necessary that their performance level be subject to constant followup and evaluation."

Transfers and Appointments

Dr Muhammad al-Dimasi, the director general of personnel affairs in the Central Organization and Administration Agency, went on to state, "Among the other modifications which have appeared as a reflection of the notion which was embodied in the law are those bearing on appointments or transfers outside the lowest grades. Article 15 of Law 47 for 1978 stipulates that the number of people appointed outside the lowest grades may not exceed 10 percent of the number of vacant grades. If we assume for example a Grade Two position--which is not the lowest appointment grade, since appointments, in the case of people holding higher credentials, start at Grade Three--if there is a single vacant Grade Two position, for example, in a ministry, the administrative body cannot fill this position because it does not have 10 vacant positions in it, according to current provisions. This is similar to the stipulation of Article 54 of Law 47, to the effect that an employee cannot transfer from one ministry to another to a vacant position outside the lowest grade unless there are at least 10 vacant positions in it.

"It became clear to us that one can hardly meet these two conditions in Articles 15 and 54 of the current employees' law--in fact, it is out of the question. It is true that the legislative power had the objective, in imposing these restrictions, of eliminating the phenomenon of position-climbing, since some employees deliberately transferred to other bodies in the desire to reach higher grades. However, in spite of that, these restrictions were at the expense of other forms of transfers which did not constitute part of the phenomenon of employment position-climbing.

"In spite of that, the new amendments take account of the fact that the basic situation should remain as it is, that is, that appointments or transfers outside the lowest grade should be permitted only if there are at least 10 vacant positions: however, if 10 vacant positions do not exist in the body to which the transfer or appointment is being made, it is permissible to make appointments or transfers within the limits of one or more grades.

Transfers from Employment Groups

"In addition, the new amendments also make it permissible for people occupying auxiliary service positions, couriers, and attendants who receive transitional training courses for skills and occupations for which there is intense demand to transfer from one specific employment group to another so that these workers will

not continue to represent surplus labor and disguised unemployment in ministries, authorities and government departments. However, it is not possible to move them from the group of auxiliary service positions to which they have been appointed to the craft position group. The new amendment has the effect of allowing them to be transferred to craft groups whose positions are in keeping with their new employment conditions as technical labor.

The Amendment Will Achieve Stability in Positions

"This amendment will also achieve stability in positions in the case of employees who obtain higher credentials during their service, because, in the context of the current stipulation, which prohibits transfers from one specific employment group to another, strange discrepancies occur. For example, employees have been appointed who hold intermediate credentials, have reached Grade Two in the clerical positions group, then have acquired higher credentials during their service and sought to transfer to other specific groups whose positions were in keeping with their new credentials, but in their case the transfers were not allowed and they had no choice but to apply for reappointment to the groups they wished to be transferred to, causing them to lose the period of service they had spent at their intermediate credentials."

"However, according to the new amendments to Employees' Law 47 for 1978, this group of workers now will have the right to transfer to a group of specialized positions at the same employment status they have reached through their intermediate credentials."

Finally

It remains for us once again to assert the point we referred to at the beginning of this report: solving the problems of government sector employees lies not just in proliferating legislation and laws alone. Rather, what is important is that this legislation guarantee that this broad sector of Egyptian manpower achieve material stability and stability of employment, thereby enabling everyone to devote himself full time to increasing production, since that is the quickest road to progress and welfare.

11887

CSO: 4504/512

ISLAMIC VIEW ON POPULATION PROBLEM, BIRTH CONTROL DISCUSSED

Implications of Family Planning

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 21 Jul 82 p 4

[Article by Dr Hilmi 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sabir]

[Text] We had raised several questions in a number of articles on the population problem, and we had promised that we would provide answers to these questions at a later date. Among these important questions that people are waiting to get decisive answers to is one on Islam's attitude on having many children. [Other questions that were asked were]: Is contraception considered tampering with God's creation? Is it considered the work of the devil? Who has the legal claim to a child and may decide whether to have children or practice contraception? What are the reasons for which contraception may be allowed?

Before we answer this and other questions, I would like to refer here to an important point. That point is that all those who wrote about contraception, planned births, birth control, or family planning--all these are synonymous terms--and all those who work to carry out such plans are referring to the same thing. Actually, the term, birth control, is the one that most accurately expresses the point of view of the proponents of this theory, notwithstanding the fact that the other terms are substituted to alleviate the impact of the theory on devout Muslims.

At the outset we want to pave the way for the subject [of our discussion] by explaining the divine wisdom that lies behind the creation of mates, males and females. God Almighty did not make this system of mates exclusive to the human race. It is the instinct on which the law of life is based. God said, "And all things We made in pairs, so that you may give thought" [al-Dhariyat: 49]. Hence, life would be no good and would not go on unless males and females mate and multiply to preserve the species and populate the earth. We can realize the wisdom behind the fact that God created the human race of males and females from the numerous verses that the Holy Koran brings us. God Almighty says, "He gave you wives from among yourselves, that you might live in joy with them, and planted love and kindness in your hearts" [al-Rum: 21]. God Almighty [also] said, "Allah has given you wives from among yourselves, and through them He has granted you sons and grandsons. He has provided you with good things." [al-Nahl: 72]. God [also] said, "Men, we have created you from a male and a female and divided you into nations and tribes that you might get to know one another" [al-Hujurat: 13].

By considering these and other verses, we realize that besides what a husband and wife stand to gain if they are united in a true, legal bond that implies affection, mercy, familiarity and intimacy without which life would be meaningless, there is also another objective for the bond between a husband and wife. That objective is begetting many children and grandchildren who would go out into the world and form nations and tribes that would get to know one another and become friendly.

Although the matter of males and females getting together and having children is instinctive and firmly fixed in every human being, we find many texts in the Koran and in the Prophetic Tradition urging and advocating it. The Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, explains that marriage is one of the laws of Islam. People marry not merely for pleasure or to satisfy an instinct. Marriage brings one closer to God; it is a form of worship by which man turns to His God. The Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, says, "Marriage is one of our laws. He who dislikes our laws is not one of us." The Prophet forbids celibacy and the renunciation of marriage. He says, "There is no celibacy in Islam; there is rather one's religious duty and one's intention." Authentic Prophetic traditions that advocate marriage are numerous, and we do not wish to belabor the matter by citing these accounts exhaustively.

In fact, anyone who would consider the physical makeup of a man's and a woman's body would find that the interests of the human species were preferred over the interests of individuals. One would realize that what man was given in his life [by his Creator] was given to him for the sake of the species more than for his own sake. We find that a man's period of maturity, his potency, vitality and attractiveness are related to his virility and his ability to make a contribution to the species. The same is true of a woman: her beauty and her attractiveness are related to the period of her fertility and her ability to make a contribution to her race. These contributions cease when a woman reaches menopause: her beauty fades and her attractiveness diminishes. A man also grows old and his potency vanishes.

Books about the Prophetic tradition relate to us many traditions which indicate that the purpose of marriage is above all else procreation. On the authority of Ibn Uns, Imam Ahmad relates that the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, said, "Marry a woman who has a favorable disposition and who will give you many children. I want to exult in your large numbers in front of the prophets on the Day of Resurrection." Abu Dawud and al-Nisa'i, on the authority of Ma'qil ibn Yasar also related that a man had come to the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, and said, "I have fallen in love with a beautiful woman of a good family, but she cannot bear children." The Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, told him not to marry her. The man went to the prophet a second time, and the Prophet told him not to marry the woman. The man came a third time, and the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation said, "Marry a woman who has a favorable disposition and who will give you many children. I want to exult in your large numbers in front of the prophets on the Day of Resurrection." According to 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, is reported to have said, "A straw mat in the corner of a house is better than a woman who cannot bear children."

The foregoing indicates to us that begetting many children is desirable in and of itself. It is the primary objective of marriage. It is a requirement of human nature; in fact, it is a requirement of animal nature. The practice of contraception is against instinct because proper instinct requires that matters be allowed to run their natural course.

Accordingly, responding to [the appeal to] practice contraception is considered tampering with God's creation. It is considered the work of the devil who instigates that practice among people, as indicated by the holy verse from the Koran. God Almighty said, "[Satan had said], 'I shall entice a number of Your servants and lead them astray. I shall arouse in them vain desires and order them to slit the ears of cattle. I shall order them to tamper with Allah's creation.' Indeed, he that chooses Satan rather than Allah for his protector ruins himself beyond redemption" [al-Nisa': 117].

Tampering with God's creation means using something for a purpose other than that for which it was created or using something in a manner by which the purpose of its creation is lost. Let us consider God's creation, that is, the system of marriage or the marital relationship between a woman and a man under this principle. Does contraception or birth control compel one to tamper with God's creation or not?

We will find out about this and other matters in the next article, God willing.

May God bless our Lord Muhammad and his family and companions and grant them salvation.

Tampering with God's Creation

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 28 Jul 82 p 4

[Article by Dr Hilmi 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sabir]

[Text] In the previous article we referred to an important principle: the principle that practicing contraception and birth control is considered tampering with God's creation. We promised that we would explain this principle in this article. Let us do so, and may God grant us success.

Tampering with God's creation means using something for a purpose other than that for which it was created or using it in a manner whereby the purpose for which it was created is lost. Let us consider God's creation, that is, the system of marriage or the marital relationship between a woman and a man under this principle. Let us consider whether contraception or birth control compel one to tamper with God's creation or not.

God indicated the purpose of marriage in two verses in the Koran. In one of them He referred to the protection of [one's] progeny and the survival of the race or what is called the duration of a viable life. God Almighty said, "Women are your fields" [al-Nisa': 223]. Woman then is a field which is plowed by a man; and the fruit of that effort is a child. In the second verse God referred to the preservation of moral or civilized life. God Almighty said, "By another sign He gave you wives from among yourselves, that you might live in joy with them, and He planted love and kindness in your hearts" [al-Rum: 21]. God made the intimacy

of marriage generate familiarity, mercy, intimacy and mutual bonds. Life can only be right under these two objectives: first, the preservation of the quality of life or a viable life, and second, the preservation of moral or civilized life. For that purpose God created males and females and made them both attracted to each other so that they would have children, the [human] race would survive and affection and mercy would set in. If this were not so, why would God create two different sexes, males and females, and make it so that there be no harmony in life unless the male and female were to marry and live in one home?

This is the general view of Islamic law as far as offspring are concerned. Islamic law advocates and urges Muslims to have many children. It considers contraception or birth control to be an act of tampering with God's creation and a work of the devil for which human beings are punishable because [in practicing either] they turn human instinct away from its natural course and its decreed path.

Let us move on to another point that will help us considerably in investigating the matter of birth control. This point is this: who has the legal claim to the offspring and may decide whether to have a child or not? Actually, this problem is not a new problem for inquiry. Old scholars dealt with it, and their points of view on answering this question differed because each of them looked at the matter from a particular perspective.

Some of them said that only a father has a legal claim to the offspring. Therefore, a father may choose to beget a child or not, as he wishes. Among the proponents of that opinion are Hujjat al-Islam Imam al-Ghazali who died in 505 Hegira. Imam al-Ghazali thought that the practice of contraception was permissible and that it was not reprehensible because the prohibition of such a practice would have to be stated in a text or arrived at by analogy, and there is no text on this subject or another text that would provide an analogy. In fact, in Islam the analogy for the permissibility of contraception lies in the fact that marriage may be renounced in the first place. Therefore, contraception is permissible just as marriage is [sic?].

Birth control enthusiasts used al-Ghazali's idea to argue their case. They cited him everywhere so that Muslims can be assured that what they were advocating was truthful. But those who used what al-Ghazali said as their argument ignored the rest of al-Ghazali's statement. They took only what they wanted and left what did not serve their biased purposes.

But if we were to consider everything that al-Ghazali said, we would find him saying that the practice of contraception was permissible regardless of the reasons for it. Then if we consider the reasons, we would find that some of them are permissible; these reasons are neither forbidden nor considered reprehensible. Thus, they would have no effect on the permissibility ruling. Some of those reasons, [however], are reprehensible: it follows therefore that contraception would be reprehensible if it were being practiced for reprehensible reasons and that it is forbidden if it were practiced for forbidden reasons. Thus we find that rules on this practice vary according to the motives for it. This is just like traveling which is permissible. However, rules for journeys that are made will vary according to the motives behind them. Travel becomes a matter of duty if one is traveling to perform the duty of the pilgrimage, if he can afford to do so. Travel becomes an assignment if one is traveling in search of knowledge.

Travel is permissible if its purpose is to engage in trade, and it is forbidden if it is intended to commit a forbidden act, such as traveling to kill a person, to burn down a building or do something like that.

Thus, al-Ghazali's statement permitting contraception is not to be taken as an absolute. The imam, may God have mercy on his soul, had taken precautions against that and had said that the practice of contraception was permissible but that the rule for the practice differed according to the reason for it. We cited the example of the rule for travel, and we will explain later the reasons for contraception.

Some religious scholars think that both parents together have a legal claim to the offspring. Therefore, contraception is impermissible unless both of them agree to it since both of them have a legal claim to the offspring. Among the proponents of this view are the scholars of the Hanafite school.

There are scholars who think that parents and a nation share the legal claim to the offspring, but that the parents' claim to the offspring is stronger. Among the proponents of this opinion are scholars of the Shafi'ite and Hanbalite schools. Many religious scholars in big cities think that contraception is reprehensible due to the legal claim a nation has on the offspring, since contraception reduces the offspring of that nation. The prophet encouraged people to marry and to increase their offspring. He said, "Marry and have children and your numbers will increase." He [also] said, "A black woman who can bear children is better than a beautiful woman who cannot." This is what [those scholars] thought about contraception as far as the state's legal claim is concerned. With regard to the rights of parents, religious scholars declared contraception forbidden if practised by a man without the consent of his wife. They said that if, in the opinion of a legislator, there is an important need to practice contraception, then the practice may be permissible and not considered reprehensible. They gave an example of such a need: when a couple is engaged in fighting a war and it is feared that pregnancy may weaken the wife and make her unable to endure the hardship of traveling and fighting, or when it is feared that a wife may give birth in the country where the war is being fought and where the means for comfort and care for a newborn child are lacking. Among scholars who espouse this opinion are Muwaffaq al-Din ibn Qudamah al-Hanbali, who died in 530 Hegira; and al-Imam al-Nawawi, who died in 676 Hegira.

There are scholars who think that a nation's legal claim to the offspring outweighs that of the parents. They think that contraception is to be forbidden under any circumstances. They said that the practice of contraception in marriage was like diverting a stream from its [course in a] valley, despite the fact that nature needs [the offspring] and is prepared to make them grow and yield fruit that would benefit people and populate the universe. Among the proponents of this view is a sect of followers of the prophet's tradition who include ibn Habban al-ibn Hazm, may God be pleased with them.

Al-Shaykh Shaltut, may God have mercy on his soul, reviewed scholars' inclinations about the matter of who has legal claim to the offspring. He said that it seemed that scholars were not quite careful in showing a nation's legal claim to a child. This was not due to the fact that they ignored the state's side and ignored the formation of that nation with the required strength. It was

rather due to their belief that the nation's legal claim in this aspect was provided for and that it was not in jeopardy because in Islamic law marriage is desirable and its religious aspect predominates. Those who marry are rewarded in the after life. Accordingly, Muslims are intent on marriage, and the love of children is ingrained in their practices. In the days of those scholars the nation [of Islam] was powerful, populous and vast, and it never occurred to them to think of it as weak, sparsely populated or with weak nerves. We are confident that if these scholars were to broaden their view and consider [the possibility of] a nation whose faith has been undermined, whose morals have been corrupted to the point that people prefer intimate companionship to marriage, abortion to contraception, and they avoid having children altogether so they can preserve pleasures that are of no consequence to serious-minded men, while others lead a life of laziness and unemployment and become annoyed and depressed whenever they are told news of a pregnancy or a birth, they will all agree that contraception is to be forbidden unless the practice is necessary or there is an urgent need for it.

We can conclude from this article that the basic principle in Islamic law is to increase one's offspring; that parents and the nation share the legal claim to the offspring; and that parents' legal claim to a child is commensurate with what they produce by legitimate means. Parents bring up a child, and then they offer him to society so he can do his part in serving his nation.

Scholars Disagree about Birth Control

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 4 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by Dr Hilmi 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sabir]

[Text] We mentioned in the last issue that the basic principle in Islamic law is to increase one's offspring. We indicated that the parents and the nation share the legal claim to the offspring and that the parents' legal claim to the offspring is commensurate with what they produce by legitimate means. Parents bring up a child and then offer him [to society] so he can do his share in serving his society and his nation. We also indicated that the statement that contraception is permissible under any conditions is one which is opposed by strong considerations which we indicated in the foregoing.

The subject that we wish to explain in this article, God willing, is that of the reasons that led scholars to disagree about making a judgment on birth control. We want to show the arguments that each group of scholars made about contraception; these arguments are derived from the Tradition of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation. Let us say, may God grant us success.

Several accounts about contraception that are attributed to the prophet have reached us. Some of them are genuine, and some are weak. Scholars disagreed about these accounts, and they disagreed in the judgments they made about contraception. Some of them permitted it, and some forbade it. Many of those who spoke about birth control relied on these accounts and used them as evidence in advocating birth control in general. What we want to clarify here is this: How indicative and forceful are these accounts in opposing the call for increasing one's offspring? Let us now consider these accounts.

The first account is attributed to Jabir ibn 'Abdallah, may God be pleased with him. He said, "We practised contraception in the days of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, when the Koran was being revealed." There is agreement about this account. In Muslim's relation, there is an addition to it. That addition is: "The prophet was informed, and he did not forbid the practice."

The second account is also attributed to Jabir ibn 'Abdallah. A man went to the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, and said, "I have a female slave who is also our servant and the person who supplies us with water. I have intimate relations with her, and I do not want her to become pregnant." The prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, said, "Practice contraception if you wish. She will get what has been destined for her." This was related by Muslim, by Ahmad and by Abu Dawud.

The third account is attributed to Abu Sa'id al-Khadari, may God be pleased with him. He said, "The Jews said that contraception was a minor form of infanticide, and the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, said, 'The Jews lied. If God Almighty wanted to create something, no one can turn Him away from that.'"

The fourth account is also attributed to Abu Sa'id al-Khadari. At the battle of al-Mustaliq tribe he said, "We obtained female Arab prisoners, and we asked the messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him salvation, about this. The prophet said, 'No. You are not to do this, for God has decreed all His creation till the Day of Resurrection. There is agreement about this tradition, and that is stated by al-Bukhari."

The fifth account is attributed to Judhamah, the daughter of Wahab al-Asadiyah. She said, "I was with the messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him salvation, when people asked him about contraception. He said, "That is invisible infanticide," and he read from the Koran, "...when the infant girl, buried alive, is asked for what crime she was slain" [al-Takwir: 9]. This was related by Ahmad and Muslim, and all his men are reliable sources. After mentioning these tales, al-Shaykh Abu Zahrah said, "In considering these accounts of the Prophet that we mentioned, we find that two of them are agreed upon. These are the accounts of Jabir--"We practiced contraception"--and that of Abu Sa'id in the battle of al-Mustaliq tribe. We also find two accounts that plainly contradict each other: the account of Judhamah--"[Contraception] is invisible infanticide"--and the account of Abu Sa'id that the Jews lied. Scholars of the Prophetic tradition have stated that the account of Judhamah carries more weight than that of Abu Sa'id about the infanticide of the Jews because in Abu Sa'id's account there is weakness in some men, but there is no weakness in the account of Judhamah. Accordingly, Abu Sa'id's account does not stand up to that of Judhamah. Judhamah's account is also confirmed by the tale about the battle of al-Mustaliq tribe where contraception is clearly forbidden. As ibn Sirin said, "The negative particle in the account is used to forbid it. The Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, emphasized this prohibition by saying, 'You are not to do this.'"

Although scholars have pondered these accounts and have disagreed about the judgments they made about contraception--some of them forbidding it and some of them permitting it--we think that those who permitted contraception did so on the basis of the fact that contraception would be permitted on an individual basis,

even though they disagreed about the reasons for which such license may be granted. Some scholars were liberal in the reasons they allowed for the practice, and others were not. However, they said that contraception was a practice that could be pursued for the best but that it could also be reprehensible. Anyone who investigates everything that has come down about what the messenger of God said about contraception, and anyone who knows specifically the context of the situation in which the Prophet indicated one of his traditions and also anyone who knows prevailing conditions and circumstances in the countries of the Arabs during the days of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, can make the judgment that contraception was not common and widely practiced among all Muslims. He would know that Muslims then did not have a birth control or a contraception movement and that contraception was not intended to become the subject of a national policy.

Instead, by following the accounts that have reached us about contraception, we will find that there were three reasons that led some Muslims to practice contraception. As mentioned by Abu al-A'la al-Mawdudi, these are [as follows]: first, the fear that a female slave may become pregnant; second, the fear that a female slave may become entitled to permanent residence if she bears a male child; and third, the fear that a suckling infant may be exposed to something that would hurt his health if the mother becomes pregnant while she is nursing him, or fear for the life of the mother. These are special circumstances where the license to practice contraception is granted on an individual, not a general basis. We can, in fact, conclude from the accounts that the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, disliked contraception and thought it was a foolish practice. Contraception was also disliked by some of the Prophet's companions. Malik related in *al-Mawta'* according to ibn 'Umar, may God be pleased with both of them, that "he did not practice contraception and that he hated the practice." Although the Prophet did not forbid and absolutely prohibit the practice of contraception, he was extremely wise in following that course. There may be special cases where individuals need to practice contraception. Those individuals would be permitted to practice it in a manner commensurate with the reason for the license.

We can determine on the basis of the foregoing that contraception may be permissible if there is a reason for it. Otherwise, it is not permissible. If contraception becomes necessary for one individual, it is permitted to the extent of that individual license. There is nothing in Islamic law that would make contraception permissible collectively for a nation or a region. The license to practice contraception is always an individual license. Scholars of Islamic jurisprudence have decreed that if a practice is permitted and if that practice is contrary to the total general principles of Islamic law, it would be partially permissible [in exceptional cases] and forbidden for all. Therefore, individuals are allowed to practice contraception if those individuals have causes for engaging in the practice. But contraception is not allowed as a general rule for the whole nation.

The conclusion we have reached is strengthened by the fact that contraception is against instinct. It is opposed by the accounts of the prophet that are agreed upon. These accounts forbid contraception. Some scholars have even said that accounts on forbidding contraception invalidate those that allow it. Contraception is also opposed by these accounts that advocate having many children and

protecting those children. Scholars of the nation have agreed on protecting the five essentials for the preservation of life. These are: self-preservation, preservation of religion, preservation of the mind, preservation of material wealth and preservation of the offspring.

The rest of the discussion will be presented next week, God willing.

Reasons for Allowing Birth Control

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 11 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by Dr Hilmi 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sabir]

[Text] We continue today our discussion about the population problem, and we remind the gentle reader of what we said before about statements that were made about contraception in the Prophetic Tradition. These statements led scholars to disagree in the judgments they made on contraception. We considered and analyzed this matter, and we concluded that these accounts in which contraception is forbidden carried more weight than those in which it is permitted. We concluded that the accounts that permitted contraception did so in individual cases which may not under any circumstances be construed to mean a general license. We concluded that any form of contraception is prohibited except in individual cases where it is necessary; these cases are evaluated when they come up. There is no doubt that those cases in which the practice of contraception becomes necessary have to do with the interests of the offspring. In this article our discussion will be about those cases in which contraception or birth control may be permitted. Let us say, may God grant us success.

Among the decreed principles in Islam is that no one is to be harmed or wronged. If a pregnancy were to cause certain harm to come to a mother or a child, contraception is then permitted. In fact, scholars require it [in this case] on the basis of what God Almighty said, "...do not with your own hands cast yourselves into destruction" [al-Baqarah: 195].

When medicine does not approve of a pregnancy that would harm a woman or a child, Islamic law concurs with medicine because Islam is quite concerned about the fact that Islamic society be founded on the health and well-being of its members. A populous nation whose citizens are weak is like a nauseating stream that serves no useful purpose. The spirit of Islamic law abounds with instructions and directives urging [attention to people's health]. Among these instructions we find [the following]:

1. Islam has been concerned about people's health and about the fact that their bodies be free from disease. Therefore, sick people are allowed to break the fast so as not to aggravate their illness. People who are traveling are also allowed to break the fast to protect their health. People who would be hurt or whose physical condition could deteriorate by observing the pre-prayer ablutions are allowed to go through the motions of the ablution ritual without using water. Islam ordered people to take medication to cure themselves of disease. Islam warned against contagious diseases and demanded that quarantines be set up in case there is an epidemic in a village or a city. Islam forbade overeating and overdrinking lest that harm one's health. And there are many other things that Islam forbade.

2. As far as marital life is concerned, Islamic law gave both spouses the right to annul a marriage contract if one of them proves that the other has a disease that would prevent [the achievement] of the objectives of marriage or if one of them has a disease that would be transmitted to the offspring. Scholars disliked marriage between relatives lest the offspring of such marriages turn out weak as was stated in well-known proverbs, [for example], "Marry those who are not related to you and you will not be hurt." Scholars explained the prohibition against marriage to close relatives by the fact that the offspring of such marriages are weak physically and morally. Scholars permitted revocation of an agreement with a wet nurse if she proves to be pregnant. They explained this by saying that the milk of a pregnant woman could hurt both the child and the pregnant woman herself.

The foregoing indicates that Islamic law tries to furnish Muslims with the means of health and well-being. Islamic law prevents any harm from coming to a mother or her child. On the basis of this principle, a mother may practice contraception during the period she is nursing a child, since it has become established that pregnancy that occurs while a mother is nursing a child hurts both the mother and the child. God Almighty set 2 full years as the period of lactation. Those who wish to nurse their children the whole period may practice contraception during that period so they can provide their children with pure and wholesome milk. Islam does not say anything about the method of contraception that is to be used during that period. Condoms and diaphragms, birth control pills, intra-uterine devices or other modern methods of birth control may be used. Islam does not say anything about the method used, but it does have something to say about the motive for practicing birth control. In permitting contraception for a mother during the period of lactation, we do so on the basis of the legal principle that no one is to be harmed or wronged, as we have previously explained. We will find that during that period a mother rests and regains the strength she had lost because of her pregnancy and the difficulties of birth. She will also devote herself enthusiastically and diligently to the rearing of the child, nursing him with pure milk that would not be contaminated, as the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, described the milk of a pregnant mother. The prophet referred to that in the account related by Asma', the daughter of Yazid ibn al-Sakan. Asma' said, "I heard the messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him salvation, say, 'Don't kill your children in secret. The contaminated milk of a pregnant mother eventually catches up with the horseman and causes him to fall off his horse.' " This was related by Abu Dawud. This account warns against nursing a child during pregnancy. This is because a child who nurses from a pregnant mother carries in his makeup the ingredient of weakness. When he becomes a man, he becomes unable to resist his counterpart in war, and he breaks and falls off his horse because of that weakness.

That a husband and wife stop having children altogether after having a certain number of them or that a government urge individuals to stop having children is legally impermissible. The matter becomes more disastrous when people rationalize contraception by saying that they are financially unable to raise children or when the government uses poor economic conditions to rationalize its national birth control plan. Considering the problem of birth control from this perspective is at present the most dangerous threat to the faith. One who has doubts about his daily bread has doubts about the Provider of that daily bread. Why are future infants considered consumers and not producers? God Almighty clearly

prohibited the killing of children and preventing their conception out of the fear of poverty, whether a person is actually poor or expects to be poor in the future. God Almighty said, "You shall not kill your children for fear of want. We will provide for them and for you" [al-Isra': 31]. He also said, "...you shall not kill your children because you cannot support them; We provide for you and for them" [Al-An'am: 151]. In the first verse God forbade the killing of children for fear of expected want in the future. Then He explained that prohibition by saying that He alone provides and guarantees their livelihoods. And He is the One and Only Provider! In the second verse God also forbade the killing of children as a result of existing poverty, and He explained that by saying that He provides for the fathers and the mothers just as He provides for the children and grandchildren. In fact, one who carefully considers the two verses realizes that the prohibition stated in them is against two crimes not one. God forbade the crime of infanticide first, and, second, He forbade the crime of considering children a cause of poverty and misery.

Benefits of Birth Control Questioned

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 18 Aug 82 p 4

[Article by Dr Hilmi 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sabir]

[Text] This article is more like a case study of Egypt in the light of what has already been printed in [previous] articles on the population problem and birth control. We say, may God grant us success.

It is indeed curious that high-pressure birth control propaganda is being seen in Egypt. We also see programs being prepared, plans outlined, necessary funds arranged and foreign assistance being poured into the country so that birth control may be practiced in this Muslim country. We even see birth control pills being distributed free of charge in most cases, or subsidized; we see birth control centers proliferating under the name "family planning centers;" and we also see television and radio programs and advertisements devoted to propaganda promoting the idea of birth control. This is above and beyond [what can be seen] in the newspapers, magazines, books and publications [that are promoting that same idea]. Birth control has become the subject of the hour, and people are preoccupied with it. What is even more serious than all this is the fact that birth control is becoming a national plan the government is adopting in its economic policy. It is doing so under the pretext that economic problems cannot be solved and necessary resources for the nation cannot be provided unless we practice birth control. [Government officials] play the numbers game, and they use the census and statistics to magnify the problem. In fact, they often resort to Islamic law to give them the go-ahead [on promoting] the idea and making it acceptable to people.

We have seen the judgment of Islamic law on this matter. We have seen that whole-sale contraception is not permitted and that contraception is a matter of individual license determined in cases when pregnancy may be harmful to the mother or the offspring. We've shown that birth control contradicts what God Almighty said, "We will provide for you and for them." In the name of religion we strongly oppose this insidious idea. We do not wish to stop having children, and we do not wish to reduce our numbers, disobey our Prophet and renounce our faith in the

power of our Lord who created the universe and provided for His creatures. "There is not a creature on the earth whose sustenance is not provided by Allah" [Houd: 6]. If we were to go back to the beginning of [this] movement, we would find out that the birth control movement is a colonialist plan promoted by colonialism in our country. Colonialism found a popular market for this idea in the minds of many thinkers and convinced many officials who are responsible for the policy of this country to accept it.

No one is ignorant of the fact that birth control propaganda appeared in Islamic countries from Europe and America. [This movement] drew no distinction between countries that have many resources and those that have few. The idea used to come and go until Israel occupied Palestine and made the people of Palestine homeless. Israel was then backed by the British, the Americans and other countries in Europe. Then birth control propaganda began returning to the region surrounding Israel. This time it was forceful and relentless. Egypt was singled out among these countries with relentless propaganda because the claim of limited resources in Egypt may catch on and because, God willing, its people were developing and enjoying the blessings of God. Egypt was also the largest and the strongest country against Israel. Egypt's army constituted the strength of all the Arabs. It was Egypt that had defeated all its enemies throughout history, and it was Egypt that had buried the Crusaders and turned back the Tatars. Egypt was the country to be feared as a threat to Israel's peace and security.

This is what Jews, Europeans and Americans planned; they are the ones who promoted this propaganda. Egypt was showered with aid, and the United States itself began supervising the implementation of birth control programs. It appointed its representatives in Egypt to supervise and follow up on these programs. We began to see a group of people who paid no heed to the judgments of their faith and who were not genuinely concerned about their countrymen. They were mostly concerned about the money they would collect from subsidy funds, money which ultimately lined their pockets. Nothing else after that concerned them. It is of those people that we would ask this question: Why do you want our Egyptian nation to practice birth control?

If the scarcity of resources is the reason [why you are promoting the practice of birth control in Egypt, then you should know that] statistics about Egypt's resources show you to be lying. There are millions of arable feddans which have not been utilized in al-Wadi al-Jadid, in the western desert and in Sinai. We have treasures of oil, coal, iron and other minerals buried under our soil. None of these has been utilized. Egypt has vast bodies of water: the coastline of the Red Sea and the Mediterranean and our lakes and rivers. These bodies of water have enough fish to feed millions of hungry people. In fact, I would not be exaggerating if I were to say that Egypt can export fish, if our fish resources are well utilized. Our beloved Egypt is full of other resources. In fact, with its capabilities, its location, its climate, environment and its primary materials, Egypt can have the greatest industrial, agricultural and mining awakening in the world; it would have room for millions of people.

There is no scarcity of resources in Egypt, and there is nothing to fear in Egypt from an increase in the population. What Egypt is actually suffering from is poor planning and follow-up in the utilization of resources. Sinai was deserted territory when it was under Egyptian control, but as soon as the Israelis seized it,

they made that barren desert bloom, and they turned it into a gold mine for resources and minerals. Now Sinai has been restored to us, and what are we going to do with it? Sinai has space for over 80 million persons, and it can provide them with a life of prosperity in all areas. What is curious is that population density in all of Sinai is 2.5 persons per square kilometer, and in spite of that the government is calling for birth control! What contradictions do we have here?

Egypt has a shortage of skilled workers, and we have a shortage of teachers and specialists. Qualified preachers and religious advocates are scarce. We have a shortage of skills everywhere. How can we have these shortages and claim that we have too many people in our country? The real problem in Egypt is poor planning, not scarce resources or too many births.

Egyptian planners are calling upon workers and farmers to stop having children so they can be guaranteed a stable life. Those people forgot that workers and peasants keep their children at home for a shorter period of time than others. In fact, those children are productive even while they are getting their education. Some of them [may be] geniuses and prodigies who would be relied upon in the awakening of the nation. Instead of the government telling those people to stop having children, the government should be providing assistance to the children of poor people; it should be looking after them and encouraging them.

Let us suppose that Egypt's population exceeds its resources, why shouldn't Egypt's economic awakening depend on a large labor force instead of depending on a large capital? Progress in Japan and China was founded on utilizing the large labor force [that each country had]. Japan and China prospered and progressed. They never complained about unemployment despite the fact that the population [in both countries] is large and the rate of birth high. Why don't we make such plans for the progress of our country? Why don't we have our projects focus on the large labor force? It is then that we will stop complaining about unemployment or overpopulation.

God has blessed Egypt with many advantages that scare the enemies of peace. These advantages have made the enemies of peace conspire against Egypt so the number of children can be reduced, the population shrunk and Egypt would become incapable of utilizing its resources. If Egypt and its people are bound together till the Day of Resurrection, why then should we deny ourselves the benefits of this bond? We call upon the government to take the social and financial measures [that are necessary] to help poor people bring up their children and to reduce the burden they are carrying. Instead of spending millions of dollars on family planning centers and promoting birth control, it would be better if these millions were spent [to help] poor people, to provide food for children, to build factories and to reclaim land.

We also call upon the rich and well-to-do people of this country to help poor people bring up their children. We call upon them to comply with God's command "...give in alms of that which He has made your inheritance" [al-Hadid: 7].

Finally, we think that this is plainly and patently shameful. How can a nation like ours, which has been blessed by nature with these vast areas of agricultural land, with these mineral and water resources and with this tremendous labor force have its progress and advancement thwarted by the poverty of a few individuals?

We hope that we will soon see social systems, economic laws and tight planning that will enable us to utilize our material and human resources so we can stop thinking about limiting the number of children we can have. We want to close the loophole that the enemies of the nation are using to reduce the number of our children. We are hoping that the day will soon come, God willing, that poverty and unemployment will be eliminated because of the loyalty and careful planning of those who are responsible for this nation.

Finally, we call upon the government to abandon the birth control policy and to remove it from its national plan. We call upon the government to leave the matter of birth control to individuals who would act freely on this matter according to their circumstances and to whether conception would hurt the health of the mother or the child. We call upon those who are responsible for this nation, and we call upon everyone of its citizens who is concerned about its safety and security to condemn the birth control policy in Egypt and [to demand that] the government remove it from its plan. We ask that no birth control announcements be allowed. As long as we make good plans and have good intentions, God would never desert us.

"The scum is cast away, but that which is of use to man remains behind. Thus Allah coins His parables" [al-Ra'd: 17]. God the Great spoke the truth.

Finally, as God is my witness, I have informed people. I have advised them, and I have given them true advice. O, Lord, accept from me this offering. You hear all and You know all and You make what we say useful for You are omnipotent. May God bless our lord, Muhammad and his family and friends and grant them salvation.

8592

CSO: 4504/495

GAS TANK STORAGE PROBLEMS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Sep 82 p 9

[Article by 'Adil Ibrahim: "100 Million Pounds Annual Subsidy for Butagas Goes Mainly to Black Market Merchants"]

[Text] With a 35 percent annual increase in the consumption of Butagas in the provinces, complaints have increased about its scarcity and the fact that it is difficult to obtain, along with the increase in the price of a tank to three times its official price within the regional centers and cities. It has become a daily problem for rural residents.

Since the rate of consumption of Butagas has risen from 150,000 tons in 1973 to 450,000 tons in 1980, along with the increase in the price of a ton from \$120 in 1973 to \$500 in 1981, and since we import 70 percent of the amount required, nevertheless the price of a tank of Butagas has dropped from 115 piasters per tank before 1954, to 65 piasters now, some 26 years later. Note that the cost of a tank of Butagas is 5 pounds, so that the government's subsidy of it has reached more than 100 million pounds a year.

Although the state resorted to the use of natural gas, instead of Butagas in Hulwan, Nasr City, al-Ma'adi, and New Egypt, along with supplying it to areas of al-Gizah, Alexandria and the new cities, the tank of Butagas will continue to be a problem, until Egypt switches from the age of the waterskin to the age of the faucet, in terms of fuel, as Engineer 'Abd al-Hamid Abu Bakr, chief of the Petroleum Gases Company (PETROGAS), remarked. He went on to say: "We face many problems regarding transporting Butagas to the provinces. We have begun to draw up solutions for this, in agreement with the governors, that each province would be responsible for transporting its share in their own trucks, since we find it difficult to control the process of transport by vehicles, apart from the fact that the roads are not good in some areas.

"We suffer from the problem of looking for land on which to build storage tanks for Butagas since its consumption has increased. For example, in the area of Shubra we had 10 storage tanks serving 200,000 people. Today it has dropped to only two storage tanks to serve 2 million people. The strangest thing is that some district agencies issue permits to build workshops and small cafes near the Butagas storage tanks. Then, they ask us to close down the storage tanks because of their presence in the vicinity of sources of flammable ma-

terial. Sometimes, we are forced to distribute the tanks by truck directly to the consumers. However, the industrial security control agencies put pressure on the drivers and workers, because that threatens residential areas with danger. At the same time, workers deliver the tanks to homes in smuggling operations, because of the paucity of their wages and the difficulty of the job. Moreover, some of the agents who import Butagas, especially in the rural areas, smuggle the tanks into the black market, in order to sell them at prices up to 200 piasters per tank.

"Therefore, these problems pertaining to the stages of transportation and distribution of Butagas tanks require exhaustive efforts to solve. Nevertheless, it will be impossible to cover our Butagas requirements over the next few years, because of the trend of European countries to use Butagas in the petro-chemical industry because that is economical for them. This is apart from the fact that the necessary labor to process Butagas is not available, since it is becoming obsolescent. This is due to the difficulty of processing it, requiring great physical and mental efforts. In the face of those difficulties that block the road to developing the Egyptian society, natural gas must be used as a replacement for Butagas, just as the advanced nations have used natural gas as a source of energy. Natural gas is available to us as a replacement for Butagas, which is on its way to obsolescence."

7005

CSO: 4504/540

MINISTER EXPLAINS MEASURES TO ISLAMICIZE ECONOMY

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 82 p 3

[Interview with Minister of Justice Seyyed Mohammad Asghari]

[Text] KEYHAN political service--In the second part of KEYHAN's interview with Minister of Justice Seyyed Mohammad Asghari, he answered our questions concerning the country's economic axes, the problems of inflation, high costs and distribution methods, the Islamification of the Ministry of Justice's laws, and the purging of judges.

In the second part of the interview, we asked the minister of justice: What are the future economic axes of the Islamic republic and what programs are contained within that framework? Furthermore, could you tell us how land reform and foreign trade should be?

The minister of justice said: Of the axes that can be examined, the first is land. Islam has given importance to the issue of agriculture, land and self-sufficiency, and has ordained that farmers are the nation's treasure. A person who plunders the fruits of others' labor and steals by thuggery, who has not put his hand on a shovel even once in his life is not a farmer. A farmer is that person who pours sweat, who irrigates the land and suffers. On this basis the Koran commands: "He who cultivates the land has 100 young camels." Meaning, 'He who cultivates the land owns the land.'

Therefore, one of the basic pillars of Iran's future economic programs is the revitalization of Iran's traditional agriculture, which will liberate us from dependency. The revitalization of our agriculture depends solely on this principle. We are turning to the persons who have worked on the land, have suffered for years, whose backs are bent as a result of their great labor, and have often had the fruits of their labor plundered by others. We are placing agricultural equipment like wells, capital and resources at the disposal of real farmers. Islamic land reform will certainly have a valuable role in this area.

Another matter relates to the cooperatives. We must expand the role of the cooperatives within the framework of Islamic laws and regulations, and all the people must participate in cooperatives so they are not monopolized by a number of capitalists. Simultaneous with the people's participation, the government

must help organize the cooperatives. With the presence of the people in the cooperatives, production will certainly increase.

Fair Distribution of Wealth

The fair distribution of wealth is another fundamental economic program. Through the implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution, wealth which was seized can be regained in accordance with Islamic laws. Thus the distribution and balance of wealth in the society can be implemented under the enlightened laws of Islam and the Koran's commands. Persons who during the past regime enjoyed all the advantages and who had at their disposal banks' money, land and credit and other resources in a manner are the usurpers of things which they should not have. Through implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution, wealth which was gained without effort can be taken back and given to the deprived.

Foreign commerce is also among the issues of fundamental economic importance. The government must take over the import of goods needed by society. Of course I do not mean that only the government can be a merchant, because in that case development and movement in the economy's production and circulation would stop. Rather, the government must act according to the Constitution, and must prevent the profiteering of agents who were making millions of tumans profit annually.

In light of the cooperatives and Islamic land reform, in light of the fact that the government administers factories in most sectors, that the government will take over foreign trade and that there will be fair distribution of wealth through implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution, all of this will surely bring about economic hope and activity.

Of course, in light of the Constitution and the imam's firman which he recently issued concerning the implementation of Islamic laws, Islamic laws must naturally be implemented in connection with land reform.

The issue of Islamic land reform has a general urgency in our revolution. Paragraph J should be implemented. It was previously approved by three great persons, His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, Ayatollah Meshkini, and the oppressed martyr Ayatollah Beheshti, and certainly was within the bounds of Islam's commands. However, because we did not have the desired organization during the implementation phase, there were some abuses and mistakes in this area which caused it to stop.

Then the problem of the war came along. If, in the thick of the battle, we made other issues in the society basic and major ones, the issue of the war would no longer have been the principal one. In light of the articles of the Constitution and the imam's firman concerning implementation of Islamic laws, and a stressing of Islam in regards to the oppressed and society's deprived strata, an effort must be made in the Islamic land reform area, and necessary actions must be taken. If not, like other areas where we acted too late, delayed movement in this section will also end up injuring us.

Roots of High Prices and Inflation

We told the minister of justice: Please speak about inflation, high prices, the roots and factors creating them, and the distribution situation.

Asghari said: Various issues are raised in regard to overcharging, speculation and what is really economic terrorism. The first issue concerns the buyer and his responsibility. Meaning the purchaser must think about the purchase of every item in these wartime conditions, and must decrease his consumerism and love of ease, which entangled us previously, as much as possible. In the past everything was selling and consuming, like a prodigal son who inherited millions of tumans from his father and does not work but only sells and eats. However, after the revolution this attitude has decreased due to the development and movement of conscience.

After this devotion, sacrifice and many martyrdoms, the consumers must not come to the market with the pre-revolution consumer mentality. Therefore it is the purchaser's responsibility to be careful in consumption, and cooperate with officials in the struggle against overcharging and in the identification of warehouses of speculative goods. In light of conditions and resources, the government must increase to the extent possible the supply of goods needed by society, so that through great supply the action of profiteers and speculators can be obstructed as much as possible. The third issue is correct distribution. Just as we were not able to accomplish proper purging in the ministries and government organizations, there are elements in the distribution of goods who are doubtlessly committing abuses. Really, when we look in every street and bazaar, why must we see hoarded goods with exorbitant prices? This includes cigarettes that are sold for 40 to 45 tumans a packet. In the space of two weeks cigarette prices increase from the false price of 16 tumans to 28 tumans. Sufficient cigarettes exist in society, but abuses are committed in distribution. One group of the oppressed people are sacrificed to the profiteering of these thieves. One of the reasons for this improper distribution is the failure to purge elements in the bureaus. For their own advantage they do not carry out distribution fairly. Therefore these elements must be removed. A further issue relates to the revolution public prosecutor. The public prosecutor must deal severely with these enemies behind the front who perhaps harm the revolution as much as Saddam. A speculator in the Muslim market is like an athiest. How do we treat athiests and those warring with God? Thus we must fight with these athiests, fighters of God and "behind-the-front" Saddams.

With this introduction, persons who hoard goods needed by society must be identified in public, in the newspapers and in Friday prayers. Society must identify these bloodsuckers who suck the community's blood and stick daggers in our backs. It is the duty of the mass media to identify the speculators and overchargers to society. The result of speculation, overcharging and attendant corruption returns as a bitter blow to the oppressed class supporting the revolution. A rich person obtains his needed goods whatever the cost, and feels no blow. However, that group which is struck by high prices and the goods shortage and which suffers is the oppressed class. Imagine a worker whose daily wages are 100 to 150 tumans and who pays half of that for his house rent. He cannot buy cigarettes for 40 tumans or insecticide for 70 tumans. The enemy is trying to make the people supporting the revolution and the Hezbollah surrender by this tactic. Of course a portion of the high prices is tolerable since it was created by the wartime conditions and the foreign exchange shortage.

Therefore in such circumstances we must confront the speculator and over-charger and treat them like an enemy on the war front. The time when we identify speculators in the supply and distribution of goods and confront them as an enemy behind the front, when we have increased supply, when we have raised domestic production through a planned series of long-term programs, our problems will not be like this. Domestic producers must be strengthened and the distribution system must be kept healthy, and in some instances the government must directly take over distribution.

Islamification of Laws

Our last question concerned the imam's historic firman on transforming the Ministry of Justice's laws, the state of judicial security, the stages in replacing former laws with Islamic commands, and the purging of the judiciary.

The minister of justice said: In answer to those who raise the lack of judicial security, it must be said that judicial insecurity will not come to pass. Instead there will be a lack of definitely defined duties during a transitional period. That period consists of the distance between the imam's historic firman and the approval and promulgation of laws for implementation. Due to the fact that codified and approved commands are not ready, a judge cannot refer to one source and then issue a sentence. Even if he does consult, often there will be a number of different sources. The imam's firman helped us extraordinarily in the implementation of Islamic laws. It gave priority to the approval of Ministry of Justice laws. Furthermore the Council of Guardians is busy approving laws and bills that the Ministry of Justice sent to it. The cabinet has given priority to these bills.

The judges have begun probing, all are asking questions, inquiring about problems, and daily seeking legal advice from the Supreme Judicial Council, the imam, and the community of theological school teachers. They are busy solving existing problems. In reality, the imam's firman made an effort of several years possible within a limited period of time. The imam's firman was a revolution resulting from the essence derived from all the previous stages of the Islamic revolution. We occupied the spy nest, gained victory on the war fronts, overthrew the Pharaonic rule of the liberals, and drove the United States to despair. The essence of all these victories comes back to the implementation of Islamic laws. The imam's firman created the spirit and movement for the implementation of these laws. In my opinion, although it is possible that some opportunist elements might take advantage of this limbo period that has been created, it will not be long before we leave this limbo behind us.

Concerning the purging of judges, it is necessary for me to explain that identification of judges was carried out by sub-delegations that went to the provinces. They carried out investigation using various authorities, including the Islamic Society, fellow judges, the Revolution Guards, the governor-general, the Friday prayer leader, the people and even the accused judge himself. Of course no revolutionary job can be accomplished speedily without making mistakes. On the basis of this principle, it is possible that a small percentage of the judges purged were innocent. For this reason the Supreme Judicial Council has organized a review authority from within itself which will review the files of protesting judges. If a mistake occurred and an innocent person was purged, a revision will be made.

ESFAHAN RECONSTRUCTION CRUSADE TO REBUILD WAR-STRICKEN AREAS

Tehran BURS in Persian 27 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] Esfahan--ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS SERVICE--Two-hundred villages and the Island of Minu will be renovated by the reconstruction crusade with the approval of Ayatollah Taheri, the Imam's representative and the Friday Imam of Esfahan. Plans have been made in this area, and a number of people have also been sent to the war-stricken areas.

Engineer Morteza Sharif ol-Nesb, member of the central council of the Reconstruction Crusade of Esfahan Province, while announcing these matters, said in an interview with a correspondent from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS SERVICE: The Reconstruction Crusade's main line and basic program for this year is to participate actively in the battle of the truth against falsehood, to rebuild the war-stricken areas and repair the damage caused by the war, and to deal with the malfunctions among the deprived villagers.

While affirming that the victories that have come to the arisen nation of Iran throughout the Islamic revolution and the war that has been imposed on Iran were due to the full and extensive participation of the people, he referred to the Imam's talks with regard to the role of the people in the reconstruction of the areas that have been invaded by the Iraqi aggressors.

The member of the central council of the Esfahan Reconstruction Crusade said concerning activities carried out in connection with the war fronts: Other than the sending of spare parts and the repair of machinery, other things which have been done are the sending of ammunition and food, engineering tasks such as the building of roads, bunkers of concrete and other materials, suspended bridges, emergency airstrips, desert hospitals, field clinics which were needed, and earthworks for three clothing factories which were erected with the help of about 2,300 committed sisters of the Hezbollahi party who undertake to procure clothing and other needs of the front. Concerning the Reconstruction Crusade's role in the reconstruction of war-stricken areas, he said: With the approval of the supreme council for the reconstruction of war-stricken areas the direct responsibility for the reconstruction of the demolished villages, which include 200 villages and the Island of Minu, has been given to the Reconstruction crusade. Upon the Imam's recommendation, the public mobilization will be the responsibility of the Friday imams. Fortunately this has been the manner of operation in Esfahan since the beginning.

ADVANCES REPORTED IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY

Grain Storage Capacity

Tehran BURS in Persian 25 Aug 82 p 4

[Text] From the beginning of the growing season until today 25 billion rials have been paid to wheat farmers for purchases and aid.

The storage capacity for the country's grain silos and warehouses is around 1.6 million tons, and the grain organization is not faced with any shortage of storage space whatsoever in any of the provinces.

Any increase in bread prices is illegal and in the event that a violation is observed the case must be reported to the flour and grain council.

Yesterday morning Javad 'Asemi-Pur, general manager of the country's grain organization, took part in an exclusive interview with the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY and discussed matters pertaining to the capacity of the country's silos, the payment of aid to farmers, and the stabilization of bread prices.

He began by discussing the budget for buying surplus wheat from farmers and said: Since the beginning of the wheat harvest until today 650,000 tons of wheat have been delivered to the silos.

'Asemi-Pur added: Statistics show that this budget has increased by 60,000 tons over the same period of last year.

He then added: From the beginning of the growing season to date 25 billion rials have been paid to farmers as aid and for wheat purchases.

'Asemi-Pur then referred to the readiness of farmers to sell wheat to the government and the capacity of the country's silos and warehouses, saying: The combined capacity of the grain organization's silos is 1.15 million tons. The combined capacity of the grain warehouses is 360,000 tons. In view of the fact that the grain organization's monthly distribution quota is around 250,000 tons, which is delivered to the flour mills, the organization's effective storage capability will be about 1.6 million tons.

He added: In the first 6 months of the current year, by making use of the silos of Jiroft, Semnan, and the silo expansion department, another 150,000 tons will be added to this capacity. Therefore the grain organization has had absolutely no shortages of storage facilities in any of the country's provinces, and in view of statistics which have been released by some of the responsible brothers, the grain organization has absolutely no grain-storage problems. Farmers may turn their surplus wheat over to the grain silos. In conclusion the chief of the country's grain organization said concerning the illegal overpricing of bread by some bakers: It has been observed recently that some bakers have raised the price of bread without any reason while there has been no change in the price of Tehran's wheat for bread-making. He added: Any increase in the price of bread was illegal and if a violation is observed on the part of the bakers it may be immediately reported to the flour and bread council so that the necessary measures may be taken.

Esfahan Steel Mill Output

Tehran BURS in Persian 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] With the production of more than 59,000 tons of cast iron in the period of 22 June-22 July of this year the record for cast iron production at the Esfahan steel mill has been broken for the second time this year. The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY's correspondent reported that in the past month the fasting workers in the Esfahan steel mill were able to produce an average of 1,903.8 tons of steel per day through tireless around-the-clock effort. This is an unprecedented level of production in the history of the use of high-temperature furnaces. It must be remembered that during the period of 21 April-21 May of this year the Esfahan steel mill also set a production record for the period of the use of the high-temperature furnace by producing 58,000 tons of cast iron.

9310

CSO: 4640/1

ALL UN-ISLAMIC LAWS VOIDED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Aug 82 p 18

[Interview with Mohammad Hashem Samadi Ahari, managing director of the Secretariat of the Supreme Judicial Council]

[Text] In an interview, Mohammad Hashem Samadi Ahari, managing director of the Secretariat of the Supreme Judicial Council, stated: "Following the important statements of the nation's Imam in the meeting with the clergy from the hajj caravans and the employees of the Islamic Revolution public prosecutor offices, a directive was published by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Supreme Judicial Council." The directive's text is as follows:

"In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Directive to all branches of the courts and public prosecutor offices of the administration of justice throughout the country, branches of the State Supreme Court, and judiciary disciplinary courts. His Eminence the Imam, may he long endure, stated in his important and historic statements on Sunday, 22 August 1982, that according to the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also the amendment to the constitution of the former regime, all laws and regulations which are contrary to Islamic standards have no validity. Therefore, based on the command of the highest authority of the theocracy, the Supreme Judicial Council stipulates according to this directive that:

1. All past laws which are contrary to Islam are null and void.
2. It is necessary for the revered judges in the public prosecutor offices and courts throughout the country to refrain from acting in accordance with such laws. Branches of the State Supreme Court should not make these laws a basis for the invalidation or confirmation of judgments that have been issued.

The judiciary disciplinary courts should try and punish any judge who acts according to such laws, and do so on the basis of Islamic religious standards.

3. Until such time as laws approved by the Majlis are announced, honored judges are obliged to rely on valid religious jurisprudential sources or

"valid fatvas in any case that they determine that existing laws contradict Islamic law, and then to issue a judgment in the case.

The Supreme Judicial Council asks the Majlis and the Council of Guardians:
"In order to achieve greater order and coordination of the work of the courts and public prosecutor offices, you should announce as quickly as possible, within the next 10 days, the bills which were drawn up by the Supreme Judicial Council on the basis of Islamic standards and submitted to the Majlis between 22 May and 5 June 1982. Thus the laws can be put at the disposal of the branches of the Ministry of Justice and become the basis for action.

4. In cases where honored judges have doubts concerning the conformity of past laws with the commands of Islam, they should clarify the matter through contact with the jurists of the Council of Guardians who are the legal authorities for determining whether laws contradict Islamic law or not.

5. In cases where the laws contradict Islam and the revered judges do not know the Islamic judgment, they should contact the Supreme Judicial Council or the Legal Consultation Office of His Eminence the Imam, may he long endure, and thus come to know the Islamic duty and make it a basis for their action.

Publication of this directive by the mass media is an official announcement, and no excuses will be accepted.

Supreme Judicial Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran"

9597

CSO: 4640/466

FOREIGN TRADE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 28 Sep 82 pp 2-5

[Text] Czechoslovakia:--The Plan and Budget Organization Head, Dr. Mohammad Faghi Banki, ended his visit in Prague, where he participated as the head of an Iranian delegation, and held talks on bilateral political, economic and commercial issues. Banki in an interview said that discussions were held on the bilateral agreements which were signed earlier. The present difficulties in the way for the implementation of those accords were discussed along with the bottlenecks in the joint projects. Banki said that possibilities for the exploration of more areas for the reciprocal cooperation in the production fields were also discussed. Special emphasis was made for the plans concerning with the construction of the war-torn areas, he said and added that the two countries agreed in principle on certain projects. He said that geological survey was another topic for the bilateral discussions in Prague. He said that the Iranian mines were to be explored in order to make the country self-sufficient in various industrial products which would pave the way for the export of the domestic industrial production in future.

Meanwhile, an appendix for a letter of understanding which was signed last year in Tehran, was concluded on the last day of Dr. Banki's stay in Czechoslovakia. In this appendix, mutual economic cooperation between the two countries especially for providing machinery and the Czech Government's responsibility for the completion of the existing projects as well as supplying spare items needed by Iran, were discussed. In an interview with Radio Prague, the Iranian State Minister commented on the existing relations between the two countries and prospects of future cooperation. The Iranian delegation left Prague for Tehran September 24, earlier, on September 22, expansion of mutual economic ties especially in the fields of geology, exchange of experts, basic and petrochemical goods as well as copper industries between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Czechoslovakia were discussed in a meeting between Banki and the Czech Minister of Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering Edvard Saul. In this meeting Saul stressed the desire of this country for expansion of mutual economic and political relations. The Czechoslovakian Government the Czech minister further said would give priority consideration for the Islamic Republic of Iran and that his country is ready to put machinery and foodstuff at Iran's disposal. Dr. Banki, in return stated that the proposals and abilities of Czechoslovakia for mutual cooperation in committees decisions would be discussed and the results announced. Banki along with his delegation

members visited a glass factory and handicraft workshop in Bohemian city. During his talks with the local officials Banki pointed out that Iran has started a policy based on self reliance in economic fields following the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in the country. He said that conditions remained under control even during the worst situation with the economy and trade affairs.

Brazil: A \$160 million contract for the purchase of various commodities from Brazil was signed between the Islamic Republic and Brazil, announced the Managing Director of the State Commercial Organization, Morteza Movahediz on September 21. Talking about expansion of commercial and economic relations between Iran and Brazil, he said that an Iranian commercial-economic delegation travelled to Brazil in April to investigate the expansion of relations between the two countries. Brazil could provide Iran with commodities such as soya cake oil, corn vegetable oil, and industrial and plastic machinery. Also it is to provide Iran with diesel fuelled refrigerators for villages which do not enjoy electricity. In this connection, a Brazilian delegation arrived here recently and a \$130 million contract was signed. Also, another \$30 million contract was signed between the two countries. Speaking about the purchase of Iranian oil by Brazil, he said that Brazil was one of the major purchasers of Iranian oil previously but after the Islamic Revolution it refrained from buying it. Yet, following negotiations, Brazil has decided that Iran would supply its daily oil needs rather than the Persian Gulf states. He said that the contracts signed would not be carried out as a barter-exchanges but each of the purchases would be performed separately and in cash. He concluded by saying that negotiations had been held about the export of goods such as dates, pistachio nuts, and mineral ores to Brazil and the results would be announced later.

Malta: On September 21, 1982, in a meeting between the Maltese Foreign Minister, Alexander Josef Escabras Trigona and Iranian Commerce Minister Habibollah Asgar-Owlad, the Iranian Government announced that it was ready to purchase a number of goods from Malta.

In addition the Maltese Foreign Minister proposed that Iran become a partner with Malta in the latter's shipbuilding company. In this meeting the officials decided that delegations from both countries would undertake reciprocal visits and study their needs, during next month. Asgar-Owlad said that Malta could provide Iran with foodstuffs, metals, chemical products and machinery. Also, the two parties agreed that an Iranian delegation pay a visit to Malta's ship building industry and representatives from Malta pay a visit to Iran in order to help repairing Iranian ships.

GDR: Following the participation of German Democratic Republic in Tehran International Fair, a GDR delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Electric and Electronic Industries met with the General Director and officials of the Telecommunications Department of Iran on September 24, 1982. During the meeting talks were held on purchase of telecommunications equipment from GDR.

Japan: A 393 billion rials contract was signed on September 23, 1982 by the Energy Ministry of Iran and Japanese company for the supply of six batural operated 150 megawatt turbine for electricity sully. These turbines will be installed in Mashad of Khorasan Province.

Imports

The Managing Director of the State Commercial Organization, Morteza Movahedizadeh in an interview announced that 90 percent of commodities were purchased from the United States and the remaining ten percent from the American middlemen or the multinational companies before the revolution, but presently commodities were being bought from the following countries: Wheat from Australia, Turkey, Argentina, Pakistan, Canada and sometimes from Greece. Barley from Turkey, Pakistan and Syria. Corn from Canada, Argentina. Soya cake oil (for livestock) from Brazil, Argentina and more or less from Spain. Soya oil from Brazil, Spain. Rice from Thailand, Uruguay and Pakistan. Sugar from Turkey, Brazil, Commonwealth and the Soviet Union. Meat from Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, East Europe, France, Argentina and Uruguay. Frozen chicken from Turkey, East Europe, the Netherlands, Germany, more or less from France and Brazil. Eggs from the Netherlands, Spain, France, Germany. Cement from the Soviet Union and Turkey. Fish powder (for chicken breeding centers) from Peru, and agricultural seeds from East Europe, Italy and France.

He stressed that sufficient amount of the said commodities had been stored. He continued that the Islamic Republic paid attention to political issues in its commercial and economic relations with various countries and would not have any trade exchanges with the countries which were the enemies of the Islamic Republic and did not share similar views with Iran. He said that the organization imported an annual amount of 6 to 7 million tons of goods to the country and one freight ship was unloaded daily. He said that commodities would be carried by the Iranian shipping organization and in case of shortages, they would utilize charter ships. He said that through the implementation of this plan, the Iranian fleet had become more active and also the shipping organization acquired more prestige.

Copper Complex Products in Market

The Sarcheshmeh copper complex will bring out its products in the market soon, it has been announced by the complex authorities through an advertisement in the local dailies. The advertisement requested all domestic industrial units to provide information pertaining to their needs of copper so that supply arrangements would be made. The Sarcheshmeh copper complex started its operation for the production of copper bars on May 27, a few days after the liberation of Khorramshahr. The construction at the complex was stopped when American experts left the country following the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. The Iranian experts started construction work and, in less than one year, the complex was ready for operation.

OPEC Divided Over Pricing

With no sign of an end to the oil glut, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, appears as divided as ever after the meeting of the OPEC Market Monitoring Committee at Abu Dhabi on September 20, 1982. The Committee, made

up of the Oil ministers of Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Venezuela, broke up without any agreement on ways to restore order in OPEC's pricing system. And Committee Chairman Mana Saeed al-Otaiba, who is also the Emirates Oil Minister conceded that OPEC did not have enough political clout to make member countries' production quotas. The Monitoring Committee will meet again on October 16 in Vienna. OPEC members meanwhile will be finding hard to get another extraordinary meeting underway to pick up where the abortive meeting of July left off. The biggest problem is that OPEC members are battling each other as well as non-OPEC oil producers for a share of the currently weak global demand for oil. And the price-cutters are angering other OPEC members. Otaiba noted that the 13 OPEC countries as a whole were producing only 16 million barrels a day--under the production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels and far below the 30 million barrel demand at the end of the 1970s. Venezuelan Oil Minister Humbarto Caldern Berti, a member of the Monitoring Committee declared that Caracas would continue to produce 19 million barrels of oil a day, even though its OPEC quota is only 1.5 million barrels. And Saudi Arabia is upset that its Arabian light crude used by OPEC as its price reference at \$34 a barrel, is being undercut by comparable high-quality light crude from African oil producers. Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani reportedly told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) that Riyadh no longer felt obliged to keep to the reference price as long as other producers refused to accept oil pricing guidelines. The Saudis are pushing for a higher premium than the African crudes. Sheikh Yamani however remains firmly against dropping the OPEC reference price. He agrees with oil companies and energy experts that this could spark off uncontrolled price cuts that would be dangerous for the world economy.

State of Economy

The Governor of the Bank Markazi (Central Bank) of Iran Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh said that the volume of Iran's foreign exchange had not in the least dwindled ever since the outbreak of the war, and that during the past two years the Iranian banks were even capable of making investments abroad. He said deposits in the banks of Iran showed a substantial increase as compared with the previous years, and that the situation was a vivid proof of the people's trust in the banking system and the healthy economy of their country. He noted also that due to the government's deflationary policies, the inflation rate had dropped to 15.2 percent during the first three months of the current Iranian year (March 21 through June 21, 1982) from a high of 27.7 percent during the respective period of the past year. The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran said that in order to help farmers in the war-stricken areas, the commercial banks would provide a total of one billion rials to the Agricultural Bank in order that it might be allocated for interest-free loans to farmers in the war-stricken areas of the country. The country's investments in reconstruction and development projects during the first three months of the current Iranian year shows an increase of about 57 percent as compared to the corresponding period of the past year. Meanwhile, Iran's tax revenues also shows a substantial increase despite the closure of scores of private companies whose executives fled the country during or immediately after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

The country's oil exports too, with an increase of about 44 percent, have hit the target sale as anticipated in the annual budget. This has been happening here despite the U.S. freezing of Iran's assets, and its many hostile measures for making the country's foreign exchange returns on its oil sale.

Wholesale Price Index Declines

The whole sale price index during the period July 23-August 22, 1982, fell by one percent, compared to the preceding month, the Central Bank of Iran announced on September 22. The bank report further added that the wholesale price index of the said period showed an increase on 12 percent when compared to the corresponding period of last year. According to the report, the reason for the decline in the wholesale price index was, fall in price fruits and fresh vegetables.

CSO: 4600/47

INCREASES IN AGRICULTURAL, CATTLE PRODUCTION REPORTED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 28 Sep 82 pp 7, 11-14

[Text] Grain production has risen by some 200,000 tons so far, said Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Mohammad Salamati in an exclusive interview on September 25, 1982. Salamati said that considerable amount of fertiliser had been distributed to farmers during the years after the Islamic Revolution. He said that in 1356 (1977-78) fertiliser distribution stood at about 700,000 tons, 850,000 tons in 1358 (1979-80), 1.1 million tons in 1359 (1980-81), 1.3 million in 1360 (1981-82), and would increase to 1.5 million tons this year. The number of tractors produced in Iran and imported from abroad, Salamati said, would reach more than 32,000 by the end of this year (March 20, 1983) which is three times more compared to three years ago. The government will also attempt to increase its cotton production this year Salamati said, and cotton plantations have increased from 191,000 hectares this year, to 210,000 hectares this year. He further added that cotton production showed an increase of 40 to 50 percent this year. Fishing has also increased by 146 percent in comparison to the first six months of last year.

Based on a report from the Public Relations Department of the Registration Organisation there has been a rise of 6 million people in Iran's population during the past three years. This shows that the population growth rate is now nearly double of that in previous year. In case the farm products in Iran do not keep pace with the rising population the ever-increasing food crisis would become still more acute. Fortunately, the IRI Agriculture Ministry officials sometime ago announced that in view of the plans under implementation, the country would achieve self-sufficiency in farm output during the next decade. To pursue the matter at a closer level, we held an interview on these plans with Dr Abbasali Zali, Agriculture Ministry under-secretary for Plans and Programs. The details of this interview are as under.

According to a report from the Iran statistical center, Iran's annual population growth during the past six years has been as under:

Population (in thousand people)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
1976	33,709
1977	34,657
1978	35,636
1979	36,649
1980	37,698
1981	38,784

On the basis of the above statistics, there has been a rise of 5.075 million people in the national population in 1981 as compared to 1976. However, there has not only been no corresponding increase in farm output and livestock breeding but is also observed some decline in them. The following table which shows the area of major annual crops under cultivation also proves the same reality.

In thousand hectares

<u>Type of Crop</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Wheat	4,847	4,682	5,176	4,915
Barley	1,447	1,414	1,661	1,466
Paddy	308	300	319	165
Sugar Beet	140	131	141	154
Sugar cane	9	13	18	19
Cotton	311	216	175	122
Tobacco	12	14	18	

According to the above table, the area under cultivation showed a slight increase of 68,000 hectares between 1976 and 1980. If we consider this in comparison to the population growth of 5 million coupled with other problems emanating from the war and economic sanctions in the light of the fact that a major Islamic revolution has taken place in Iran, we would reach the conclusion that there has actually been a decline in the area under cultivation. If the pace of agro-industrial growth is not in proportion to the population increase, then it is taken to be a regression. As per above table, it is seen that despite our country being one of the main importers of foreign cigarettes and apart from the fact that the quality of Iranian tobacco is one of the best in the world, the area under tobacco cultivation rose only by 5,000 hectares between 1977 and 1979. This rise, though being of 19, 11 and 10 thousand hectares in respect of barley, sugar beet and sugar cane, was negative in the case of paddy and cotton, as paddy crop area went down by 142 thousand and cotton by 189 thousand hectares during the same period. It should be recalled that rice is considered to be one of the most strategic product of Iran.

The declining trend in Iran's farm products can also be viewed from other angles as well. For example, the total area under cultivation in Iran as per figures of the Iran Statistical Center was 15.4 million hectares in 1977 which declined to 13.7 million hectares by 1980 showing a fall of nearly 1.69 million hectares. Naturally, this decline in area under cultivation

has a direct effect on the overall imports of the country and it is not without reason that sugar imports rose from 449 thousand tons in 1957 to 1.37 million tons in 1979, and the tea imports went up from 18 thousand tons to 22 thousand tons during the same period. This problem has also had effect in the livestock breeding output as indicated by the table below:

Cattle in thousands

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Goat</u>	<u>Cow</u>
1977	31,872		4,866
1978	35,952	18,266	4,717
1979	35,219	16,763	4,695
1980	30,962	17,358	3,599

Dr. Abbasali Zali, Agriculture Ministry Undersecretary for Plans and Programs, while drawing up plans which aim to make Iran self-sufficient in farm products says: In agricultural self-sufficiency, the main focus of our move is on fulfilment of all the domestic needs. It is a move which, in its initial phase, gives priority to provision of foodgrains. Due to this reason the ultimate goal of the Agriculture Ministry is to attain self-sufficiency for which we have drawn up a 10-year crash program. God willing, we would realise our goal during this period, a goal which would also be accompanied by an improvement in farmers' conditions. In the second decade, we would, besides keeping pace with the increasing needs, would also move towards boosting the farm output in some of the fields so as even to be able to export them. In the light of the aforementioned points, in the planning for the next decade, provision of the calories and proteins needed by the people (calculated to be [figure indistinct] for every year during the years 1983 to 1992) would be met. It should be kept in mind that the country's population is estimated to reach 55 million in 1992. The population growth demands that some basic measures should be taken to procure the required materials. For example, at present a part of the country's wheat requirements are met through foreign imports. However, if we consider the population growth as basic, then it would be essential to move towards bringing new land under cultivation and to boost farm output per hectare.

For instance, in case the average wheat output per hectare is between 1.7 and 1.9 tons, it should be boosted to 3 tons. Similarly, the dryland output, presently standing between 550 and 600 kilos per hectare must be raised to at least 1 ton. This increased output should also be carried out in case of grains, rice and oil seeds.

While continuing his plans, Dr. Zali referred to the irrigated land under cultivation and noted: Another strategy chalked out is the area of the irrigated land which now stands at nearly 3.94 million hectares. As anticipated in our plans, this figure must be raised to 5.5 million hectares.

To meet this goal, we have decided to put under cultivation 500 thousand hectares of the above land by economising on our water consumption, while over one million hectares should be added by extending the land under cultivation. Of course, this depends on the Energy Ministry's cooperation in terms of supplying the needed amount of water. For example, if the average water need per hectare of arable land is 12 thousand cubic meters we would be needing nearly 12 billion cubic meters of water for one million hectares of land. Of course, we have already coordinated the task with the Energy Ministry and it would meet our water needs during the next decade.

As to the revival of pastures, Dr. Zali said: "This is yet another issue confronted by us. At present our pastures cannot meet the cattle needs. Due to this reason, we would take steps to preserve, revive and properly exploit the existing pastures. It must be noted that there now exist between 105 and 110 million cattle, and perhaps this figure could be raised to 120 million units by 1992. It is therefore essential to boost fodder production in order to meet the current shortfall. In the 10 year plan much emphasis has been made on increasing this yield. As fodder is produced presently in nearly 370 thousand hectares of land, this area would have to be raised to about 1.8 million. Of course, it is stipulated to manage half of this area as dry land. In relation to livestock breeding and pastures too, there should be undertaken an accurate planning.

Dr. Zali said: "Our country is faced with severe soil erosion problem in many places, and this creates problems in making proper use of dams also reducing their life. Naturally, measures should also be taken to avoid this phenomenon. The Ministry of Energy and Agriculture have anticipated joint programs which are likely to adopt measures for the protection of dams from this menace. (ETTELA'AT, Sept. 2).

CSO: 4600/48

BACKGROUND OF HOJJATIYEH SOCIETY ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 28 Sep 82 pp 19-21

[Text] Last week for the first time one of the cabinet ministers was openly questioned in a press conference on his membership in the Hojjatiyeh Society, and he answered the question without any evasions (ETTELA'AT, Sep 19). The minister who was questioned was the Minister of Education, Ali-Akbar Parvaresh, who was said to have been an old member of the Hojjatiyeh Society and to have purged his ministry of the opponents of the Society. Parvaresh openly said that he had been a member of that Society for seven years and had left it nine years before the Revolution owing to a difference in political views. He added that he did not approve of the views of the Society any longer, especially on the issue of "Velayat-e-Faqih." Nevertheless, his statements approved two things. First, the fact that some of the present members of the cabinet had formerly been sympathisers of the Hojjatees and secondly the fact that this society is still active and on some basic issues like "Velayat-e-Faqih" (leadership of the theologian) is in deep disagreement with the present IRI responsible authorities.

Prior to that, the problem of existence of a "Hojjatiyeh Society," its religious and political views, and its penetration into the revolutionary and governmental institutions had repeatedly been discussed in the press. The Tudeh Party especially warned in its publications against the danger of existence of that society in every available opportunity, but since these warnings came from a Marxist, atheist party nobody paid any attention to them. Apart from that, the daily AZADEGAN (which is said to be the publisher of the views of the youth in Imam's line) paid special attention to that and in last February published an interview with the Majlis Deputy Mehdi Tayyeb in which the history of the Society had been discussed (refer to IPD 13.4.1982). Two weeks ago also the same daily once again pointed out the dangers of this Society as one of the "plagues of the Revolution" in a survey. (AZADEGAN, Sept. 18). But it was in 1979 that the name of this society and its leader Sheikh Mahmud Halabi won fame when a reporter of the weekly magazine TIME held an interview with the Sheikh in Mashad. In this interview Halabi openly expressed his opposition to the "Velayat-e-Faqih" system, insisting that the Shi'ite Moslems have no leader other than the Twelfth Imam who is absent and they should wait until his "second coming," at which time he will establish the rule of Islamic justice all over the world.

Since the Hojjatiyeh Society has an underground activity, declaring itself a "non-political society" and never entering into political conflicts, it has not yet given any official answer or unofficial explanation to the accusations and rumours brought and spread against it. This silence draws a still thicker curtain over the Society and its activities. The only reaction that was seen in recent months was two articles written by a "Nasserreddin Kermani" which appeared in the daily KAYHAN (Sept. 11, 12), but these articles do not help to remove the ambiguity and are mostly an attack on the Tudeh Party rather than an answer to objections. The writer specifies that he is not a sympathiser of the Society but the tone of his articles do not show him to be an opponent of the society either. So, while the curiosity about the Hojjatiyeh Society and its activities is increasing, no direct and clear answer is given to the many questions that exist in this regard: How was this Society founded and what is its role in the present developments in IRI? If it is considered a danger to the Islamic Republican system, why isn't it confronted? Is this Society really a tool in the hands of the imperialists used to weaken IRI as the Tudeh Party claims? Who are those who administer the Society and what is the extent of their influence on Iran's revolutionary and governmental institutions? This survey has been prepared to answer such questions. Our survey which will be published in several successive IPD issues includes the following sections:

- I. Formation and history of the activities of the Hojjatiyeh Society from the beginning up to now.
- II. The religions and political views of the Society and its present organisation.
- III. Opponents of the Hojjatiyeh Society, reasons for their opposition, and evaluation of their arguments.

I. Formation and Previous Activities. The society which is now called the Hojjatiyeh Society was founded in mid-fifties by a young student of theology, Shekh Mahmud Zakerzadeh Tavallae, who is still the leader of the Society, and is known as Hak-Sheikh Mahmud Halabi. This young student of Mashad's theological school had reached the conclusion in those years that the "Baha'is" endanger the foundations of Islam and the "Bahai Faith" has to be seriously confronted, and so he founded the "Anti-Baha'ism Society" with some other students of theology.

The struggle against the Bahai faith is more than a century old in Iran. During the last century a student of theology from Shiraz by the name of Sayyed Mohammad Ali who was later known as the "Bab" claimed to be the Twelfth Imam of the Shi'ites (May 23, 1844) whom the Shi'ites believe to have been absent since A.D. 9th century and expect to make a "Second Coming" to save Islam on the day when all the world is dominated by oppression and corruption. This revelation had such a profound influence upon the peasants and oppressed classes, who had had their fill of the Qajar kings and court mullahs and feudals' oppressions, that the government was seriously disturbed and brought about the Bab's public execution in Tabriz, July 9, 1850. After an unsuccessful

attempt on the life of "Nassereddin Shah" in 1852, the general massacre of "Babi's" began. In 1853 one of his followers, Husayn Ali (1817-1892) was arrested and immured in an underground prison in Tehran, where he became conscious of his station as the universal prophet foretold by the Bab. He was later banished to Baghdad, founded the Bahai branch of the Faith, and became known as Baha'ullah.

In spite of all persecutions and the intensive struggle against the "Babis" and one of its branches later known as "Bahai," followers of this Faith continued their underground activities in Iran and were used by some foreign policies. The headquarters of the Bahais shifted to Akka (Acre) in Palestine, where Baha'ullah had spent some years in a fortress prison after his successive banishments to Constantinople (Istanbul) and Adrianople (Edirne), and the members carried the faith to more than 250 countries throughout the world from Africa to Europe and America. After the assassination of Nassereddin-Shah and establishment of constitutional government in Iran (first decade of the 20th century) the "Baha'is" became more active although they were still being persecuted and excommunicated as pagans and Anti-Islams by the clergy and prejudiced Moslems.

When Reza Shah, founder of the Pahlavi Dynasty, came to power (1921-1941), he banned the activities of the Baha'is (1933) to win the support of the Ulema and public opinion of the Moslems. The "Baha'is" were dismissed from government offices, their schools were closed down, and their religious center was occupied by the police. Although later on Reza Shah limited the powers of the religious leaders also, he never permitted the Baha'is to resume their activities. After Reza Shah's overthrow and Iran's occupation by foreign "Allied" forces (1941-1944), simultaneous with freedom of the activity of political parties and different organisations, Baha'is too spread their secret organisation in Iran and took back their religious center, "Kharirat-ul-Qods" (1942). They began to preach and propagate their own teachings which are diametrically opposed to the principles of Shi'ite Islam. This resumption of their activities led to numerous clashes and massacres in different parts of the country in 1944, 1946, and 1949. During the fifties the activities of the Baha'is became so extensive that Halabi himself, who went to religious school at the time, was enmeshed by the Baha'is and for some time regularly attended their religious meetings along with another of the religious students. Majlis Deputy Mehdi Tayyeb describes this period in the life of Halabi as follows: "He, along with another theology student called Sayyed Abbas Alavi, was attracted towards Baha'ism by a Baha'i preacher. They spent nearly six months on making studies into what was propagated about Baha'ism. Finally Alavi, although a learned theologian, became one of the great preachers of Baha'ism and authored books to affirm it. When Halabi, who had also been attracted towards Baha'ism, observed how his friend actually embraced that faith, he assessed the degree of danger that he might pose (on account of his familiarity with Alavi), noted that Baha'ism might not only influence simple, lay individuals but also infiltrate within the theological school, and that disturbed him very much. It was thus that he became sensitive towards this issue and started his efforts to acquire greater information about Baha'ism." (AZADEGAN, Feb. 14).

When Halabi's clamorous activity began, many who loved Islam and were discontented with the freedom of action that the government had granted the Baha'is accepted his invitation. One of them was Mohammad-Taqi Shariati, one of Bashad's reputable religious dignitaries who is still alive. (He is the father of Dr. Ali Shariati, the late famous Islamologist and author, whom the Hojjatis later denounced as an enemy of theirs.) The anti-Bahai'ism movement spread so rapidly that it caused disorders in some areas. Sympathisers of this movement in Shiraz, Mashad and Tehran attacked Bahai institutions and centers and the government had to resort to arms to confront them. Preachers criticised and attacked the government at mosques for its supporting the Baha'is. The most famous preacher among these was Sheikh Mohammad-Taqi Falsafi who is still alive and active and is counted among the leaders of this society. It was about that time that Ayatollah Boroujerdi the Shi'ite leader issued his religious decree that the Bahai centers be closed down.

CSO: 4600/45

IRAN'S, IRAQ'S WAR SITUATIONS COMPARED

Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German No 235, 10-11 Oct 82 p 5

[Article by A.H.: "Somber Prospects for Iran and Iraq"]

[Text] Lengthy wars sometimes cause the warring parties to come closer together in certain respects. This may happen to Iran and Iraq. Both nations appear to depend more and more on the personality of their respective leaders. If the leader of one or the other should disappear, both nations would be likely to plunge into chaos. This growing dependence of political life on the leader, on the one strong personality would appear to be a consequence both of the tensions brought on by the war and of tensions inside the two nations. As these tensions grow and as the iron grip of the security apparatuses gets tighter which are acting on behalf and at the command of the two leaders, one must ask oneself what would happen, if the two suddenly left the scene. As internal pressure heightened by brutal repression increases, the more serious is the danger of explosion, if this pressure were suddenly relaxed.

Two Systems of Government

Any such speculation about similarities between the two nations arising should not blind one to the fact that there are very distinct differences between them. To mention but a few: Iraq is run by a "lay" government whereas Iran is a "theocracy." Iran must pump and sell its own oil, if it is to survive while Iraq has powerful friends like Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states ready to lend her billions. In Iraq, the rulers are members of a minority (the Sunni Moslems) whereas in Iran the rulers belong to the majority Shiites led by their ayatollahs. Iran by and large occupies an isolated position in the international community; Iraq has influential Arab friends and appears to be gaining new ones. As far as the war is concerned, Iraq appears to be concentrating more and more now on waging a defensive struggle with high technology weaponry whereas Iran is reduced to waging a war of human waves both because of its internal economic and political situation and its scant connections to the outside world. For some time, Iraq has been saying it wants an end to the war; but Iran, for "theological" reasons perhaps, feels constrained to carry on in order to punish the "devil Saddam Hussein."

The Burdens of the War

If the war continues—which seems likely at this time in view of Khomeini's repeated rejection of mediation efforts—this could lead to heightened internal tensions in both countries—more quickly and more radically and openly in Iran because even today the Kurds and various resistance cells like the Mujahedin and the Jangali (in the north of the country) are openly resisting the government.

In Iraq, restlessness can be gauged by the kind of questions being asked behind cupped hands: Who is to blame for the war and its faulty conduct during the first phase, the invasion of Iran? What is the ultimate meaning of growing indebtedness and the accompanying political subordination of the theoretically "socialist" and "revolutionary pan-Arab" Baath regime to Saudi Arabia? Who is responsible for the defeats during the first stage of the war in Iran—the political or the military leadership? In both countries, the only response given to any sign of political criticism and restlessness is repression. In Iran, people are more or less openly being imprisoned and executed—although the numerous executions are no longer announced officially. In Iraq, the security forces are adept at spreading a more subtle but no less effective atmosphere of paralyzing fear which serves to keep the people from as much as whispering about political issues. One-half of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council was dismissed in the aftermath of the Kuzhistan defeat last spring and the army leadership was mercilessly "purged." Tens of thousands of families have lost some of their members for sure—either through the war or through some political trap door.

"Bribing" the People

It is not likely, however, that growing political restlessness accompanied by growing repression will soon lead to an explosion in either country. In the case of Iran, the reason for it is that there exists a powerful connection between the clergy and the lower strata of society which they organize, incite, lead and pay. In Iraq's case, the reason is that there still is a good deal of money flowing down to the people despite the war. Families who have lost sons in the war get government-built apartments on a priority basis and in some instances even cars. Despite the war, the already rapid development of the country has, if anything, accelerated.

But in both countries the question does arise how far the means available for winning the people over and keeping it satisfied will reach. In the case of Iran, this depends on whether the "Iraqi enemy" can shut down or seriously curtail its oil exports on the Persian Gulf (via Kharg and the other ports). In Iraq's case, the question is how long the other oil-producing states will continue granting her huge loans. The shortage of funds is likely to reach a critical point in Iran first, however.

The Danger from the Outside

The likely answer to the question as to when Iran and Iraq might collapse as national entities is that this will happen as soon as the keystone of each of the structures suddenly gets lost. In view of Khomeini's age, one might expect it to happen sooner in Iran than in Iraq. But there is no excluding the possibility of a successful assassination attempt in either country, since attempts have been made and have failed in both. Internal tensions in both countries heightened by repression, personal aggrandizement of power as well as duress and injustice during the war years have reached such a pitch that it is very hard to believe in a peaceful transition of power into the hands of a group of successors.

Power struggles inside both countries might pose the scarcely avoidable threat of outside intervention. In Iraq, this might initially take the form of regional intervention—on the Arab side from Syria and Saudi Arabia; on the Shiite-Iranian side, from Persia, and on the Kurdish side, from Iran and Turkey. In Iran, there is the threat of a more rapid involvement of the superpowers in view of the long border with the Soviet Union in the north and the important access routes to the Persian Gulf oilfields in the south of Iran.



Key:

1. National border
2. Main Baghdad-Tehran road
3. Secondary roads
4. Disputed border area

1470

100: 1020/5

STEPS TAKEN FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AREAS

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Sep 82 p 10

[Text] With the arrival of the third year of the imposed Iraqi war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, brother Habibollah Shafiq, the head of the imposed War Refugees Affairs Foundation, in an interview dealing with the two years of operation of this foundation, talked about the question of the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas, the return of the war refugees, and the continuation of the work of this foundation in the future. First, in regard to the establishment of this foundation, he said: "The start of the imposed war of the Iraqi Ba'ath regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the migration of a large group of our countrymen to other cities and provinces of the country was unexpected and the necessary preparations to take care of the financial and spiritual needs of our dear refugees was not planned. Therefore in the beginning, the people and some of the revolutionary organs and organizations rushed to the aid of our refugee countrymen. In this regard, the Imam Khomeyni aid committee was one of the first revolutionary organs which came to the aid of the refugees of the imposed war. With the continuation of the war and due to the rush of a large group of war-stricken countrymen to other cities, the need for careful planning for settlement, food, sanitation, and medical treatment of the dear refugees was felt more than before. In the beginning, it was imagined that the red crescent societies would be responsible. But the red crescent society, due to its policy at that time, was not making much effort. Therefore, in November 1980, the formation of a foundation was proposed to study the affairs of the war refugees. After proper studies, in May 1981, a foundation named the War Refugees Affairs Foundation, under the Ministry of Interior, officially started its work with a budget equal to five billion tumans.

"In the beginning, this foundation was able to establish camps, special mini-cities, and aid numerous refugees and take necessary action in settlement, food, sanitation, medical treatment and training of the refugees. Eventually, due to lack of experience, this foundation was not coordinated enough to be able to meet the needs of around 1.7 million refugees and operate as a revolutionary organ. Therefore it was felt at that time, that the War Refugees Affairs Foundation from an administrative point of view, had expanded more than it was needed. It had become like a branch of the ministry with over 7,000 employees. This was objected to by a large group of refugees and a number of Majlis deputies and the people.

"With the change of the supervision of the War Refugees Affairs Foundation in November 1980, a series of changes in organization and administrative orders of the foundation became inevitable. Following that, many employees who were not fit for this humane and revolutionary organ and who constituted about 30 percent of the total personnel of the foundation, were dismissed. The foundation's central office moved to a smaller building and some devout and Hezbollahi's were recruited. Attention was focused on the problem of centralization and transfer of authority to the foundation's offices at the district level for solving their own problems. These changes accelerated the services for the dear refugees. With a series of other actions improving this organization, we are trying to create more facilities and conveniences for dear refugees."

Brother Shafiq then talked about the replacement of tent camps with mini-cities with suitable living quarters for war refugees. He said, "at first, when it was thought that the war was not going to last long, the temporary settlement for the refugees was considered, but the continuation of the war and the problems of living in tents, made us decide to take positive steps in settling the dear refugees in buildings. With the cooperation of revolutionary and other related organizations, we were able to transfer more than 50 percent of the refugees living in tents to suitable buildings."

"This important work has started earnestly in the provinces of Ilam and Bakhtaran and we hope with the help of our responsible brothers, to not have any tent dwelling refugees in the near future except for those who prefer to live in tents because of their life style."

The head of the War Refugee Affairs Foundation, in relation to the budget of this Foundation during the two years of the imposed war and the people's donations and the Islamic Republic government's outlays for upkeep, settlement, food, clothes, sanitation, and medical treatment of the war refugees said, "In 1981, 5.5 billion tomans have been spent from the general budget for settlement, food, clothes, sanitation, medical treatment, and employment of war refugees. In addition to this amount, according to the foundation books, up to now, over 3 billion tumans of people's donations have been allocated for refugees affairs. In the beginning, due to lack of control of the people's donations, there were no precise statistical records of these donations. But it is certain that the people's donations so far have been much more than 3 billion toman. If these contributions were recorded somewhere in the foundation's or government's documents, it was a well spoken signboard and vivid and precious document of the people's aid for future generations."

The head of the War Refugees Affairs Foundation said: "In 1982, a budget equivalent to 5 billion tumans has been allocated for war refugees affairs and half of this budget has been used in the first 6 months of the current year. With this amount, and the expenditures of the Islamic Republic of Iran Government and the donations of the generous people, over 10.5 billion tumans have been spent for the dear refugees."

Brother Shafiq, in regard to the return of the refugees to their cities and the means to aid the refugees' families until they reach economic self-sufficiency said: "With the victory of the war activities in favor of the Islamic army,

and liberation of all the occupied cities and villages, and studying all aspects, we decided that the war refugees from cities with living facilities like housing, training, sanitation, medical treatment and law and order could return to their own homes. So far four cities, Ahvaz, Dezful, Andimeshk and Shush have been recognized as normal cities and its refugees dwellers, with the cooperation of the War Refugees Affairs Foundation, have returned to their own cities. But the remaining war-stricken cities and villages, which still lack the necessary security services or the areas like Khorramshahr, Hoveyzeh, Qasr-e Shirin and others which were completely destroyed, until reconstruction, it is not possible to dwell in them. Until the reconstruction and completion of the training centers, sanitation, medical treatment centers, social services and economic and administrative centers, the dwellers of these regions will be aided by the War Refugees Affairs Foundation as before."

He added: "Recently, in order to compile a series of actual statistics about the condition of the imposed war refugees, their identification cards and food books will be changed. This way we can be able to learn more facts about the quality and circumstances of the refugees."

The chief of the War Refugees Affairs Foundation in regard to the cooperation means of this foundation with the supreme council of reconstruction of the war-stricken areas said: "This council consists of provincial and district central headquarters. In the central headquarters, the representatives of the honorable Imam, the prime minister and the minister of interior have supreme supervision in the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas. In other headquarters of the provinces and towns, the representatives of the Ministry of Interior and other revolutionary organs are members. One of the members of these headquarters is the War Refugees Affairs Foundation."

Brother Habibollah Shafiq then thanked the officials of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Welfare for their help and assistance in training, sanitation and medical affairs of the refugees in the past 2 years of the imposed war in different camps and mini-cities. He also stressed the continuation of the work of this foundation until the end of the imposed war and the return of all the dear refugees to their homes and families. He emphasized their financial and spiritual protection until they become economically and educationally self-reliant. He expressed the hope that with the help and aid of the martyr raising and generous people of Iran and spiritual protection of the fighting clergy and Islamic Republic Government, the supreme council for the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas, will be able to reconstruct the war-stricken areas rapidly and provide the possibility of a normal life for our dear refugee countrymen after 2 years of hardship.

9815

CSO: 4640/6

IMPROVEMENTS IN UTILITY SERVICES ANNOUNCED

More Power from 'Abbaspur Dam

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Aug 82 p 9

[Text] The 400 kilovolt transmission station of Martyr Abbaspur Dam began operation.

This line and transmission station are able to transmit up to 400,000 kilowatts of electricity from the 'Abbaspur Dam to the Khuzestan and Fars Power-transmission network.

In the presence of Dr Ghafuri-Fard, the minister of energy, the 400 kilovolt power transmission station of Martyr 'Abbaspur Dam (Karun Dam) began operation in the vicinity of Masjed Soleyman, to send power to the Omidieh power station. According to a report by the Ahvaz bureau of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, this 400 kilovolt line and transmission station are able to transmit up to 400,000 kilowatts of electricity from the Martyr 'Abbaspur Dam to Khuzestan and Fars Power transmission networks. Thus, with this transmission the stability of the network will greatly increase, and while ending the shortage of electricity in Khuzestan and Fars it will prevent a great deal of power fluctuation and outage.

According to this report, in a ceremony which took place at Omidieh Electric Station, a report about the execution of this project was submitted to the Minister of Energy in which it was stated that this program was a part of the project that foreign contractors, who left the area at the time of the revolution, did not live up to their commitments. Therefore the completion and operation of this line was achieved by the TAVANIR Company. The 400 kilovolt transmission station also was completed with the cooperation of the TAVANIR Company and Khuzestan Water and Power Organization. Then the minister of energy, in a speech, praised the workers and technicians for their efforts in launching this line and transmission station. He added: "All this progress is the gift of the Islamic revolution and the leadership of Imam Khomeini. We hope that as in the past through the teachings of the great leader of the revolution we have achieved impressive victories in all fields and particularly in the war against the Ba'thist infidels, in the future also we will achieve even greater successes."

The report indicates that at the conclusion of these ceremonies, the minister of energy visited various parts of the Omidiyeh Power Station.

Water Being Restored to Ilam

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Aug 82 p 4

[Interview with Engr Mahmudi, managing director of the Ilam Water District]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the managing director of Ilam Water District it was announced:

Six hundred and fifty million rials were allocated for the drinking water of the war-stricken areas of Ilam Province.

Ilam--JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reporter.

To provide drinking water for the war-stricken towns and villages of Ilam Province, 650 million rials were allocated for this year. This credit shows a 500 million rial increase over the last year. Engr. Mahmudi, managing director of Ilam Water District, while announcing the above in an exclusive interview said: "Most of the plans for this project are being carried out in two parts: to provide drinking water for the cities, and to provide irrigation water for farms."

He added: "To provide water for the towns in the province the following activities have been undertaken: construction of two water reservoirs in Ilam city, each with the capacity of 6,000 cubic meters; continuation of manual excavation for water in the city; operations on the construction of a 500-cubic-meter water reservoir as well as a 1,200 cubic meter water reservoir in Dareh Shahr; continuation of the construction of the 1,000-cubic-meter Eyvan reservoir; continuation of the project to provide water for Abdanan has been implemented; and the pipeline to transfer water from the well to the reservoir in Shalehabad has been completed." About providing water to war-stricken towns he said: "Four water pumps, to start the flow of water in Dehloran city, have been purchased and already installed by the municipality. Two 200 cubic meter off-the-ground reservoirs of this town which were severely damaged by Saddam's mercenaries have been restored and made operational." He added: "At the present time, with the help of the authorities of the city of Dehloran, the drinking water of the city has been restored and a plan for completion of the water system of this city is in progress." The managing director of the [Ilam] water [district] continued: "In addition to Ilam, necessary actions have been taken for development of the water systems of Salehabad, Badreh, Arkavaz, Malekshahi, and the continuation of the plan for providing water for the war-stricken towns is underway, and, God willing, the system will soon be ready for operation."

About the irrigation water for the farmers he said: "During this year or the Cheshmeh Rashid projects--dredging of 32 kilometers of traditional canals for farmers in Shirvan and Eyvan areas, and construction of 6 arches on the bridge of Kabneh Eyvan--have been completed. And actions have been taken to

"continue the projects of canalization and irrigation systems of a number of villages in the Shirvan district; and feasibility study for Sigan-Darehshahr spillway, feasibility study for building pumping stations in Zarrinabad and Kalat Abdanan and planning of the large canal are underway. Also underway are the projects of Mishkhak district and Bavak Malekshahi River. The Mehr Malekshahi water tunnel is one of the undertaken projects that has been completed.

About providing irrigation water for the war-stricken areas, with the help of brothers from Reconstruction Crusade, and in view of favorable agricultural conditions in Dashte-Mehran and Kanjan-Cham Dam, studies have been made on the irrigation systems for these plains. Meanwhile this town has plans to dig 14 wells to locate and utilize the small water deposits in the plains of the province; of which five wells have already been dug."

Better Distribution of Gas, Goods

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Aug 82 p 9

[Text] [Governors-General Seminar]

In the national governors-general seminar in Mashhad it was stated:

Distribution of liquified gas will be made on a regional basis.

The seventh joint meeting of the cabinet and governors-general of the entire country, which started on Tuesday, 3 August in the Tourist Hotel of Mashhad and lasted 4 days, came to an end. According to the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reporter from Mashhad, in the last day of this meeting Mr Asgar-Owladi, the minister of commerce, talked about fair distribution of goods and said: "Distribution of goods is divided into three kinds: distribution under hardship, essential distribution and distribution under normal conditions. In the first instance, distribution under hardship includes such goods as sugar, lump sugar and grain that are needed by all people or the majority of the people and their international price is higher than the purchasing price of the people or their international price is lower than the local production price. In this situation the government takes the initiative and distributes these goods on a per-capita or pseudo-per capita basis." He added, "Essential distribution is the kind that refers to goods not required by all the people under the same conditions and only a number of people need them. An example is steel where the domestic production is below the demand for this good and only a number of people need it and, therefore, the distribution of such goods must be undertaken by cooperatives. The third kind is distribution of goods under normal conditions, which are not needed by every domestic in the population but only a number of them; and the domestic production or importation of such goods can meet the reasonable demands of the people. In this case, the private sector is used to distribute such goods."

The minister of commerce at the end of his speech talked about the nationalization of foreign trade and said: "This bill, that was recently passed by

"the Majlis but certain parts of which were rejected by the Council of Guardians, is presently under study in the Ministry of Interior to eliminate its deficiencies."

After this, the deputy minister of commerce talked about the problems of distribution of certain goods needed by all the people. He said, "The policy of the Ministry of Commerce is that distribution of goods be done on the provincial level and in accordance with the needs of each province." In this session the deputy minister of oil talked about the distribution of gasoline across the country. He said, "Eleven million liters of gasoline are distributed daily across the country and we cannot increase the gas ration of private cars." He added, "With the start of the Bakhtaran refinery, 20,000 barrels of jerosene and other fuel products will be refined at this refinery each day."

The deputy minister of oil talked about the fair distribution of liquified gas and said: "There are 21 distribution companies in Iran engaged in the distribution of liquified gas. Each company has a 'regulator' of its own. Therefore we are unable to provide distribution of liquified gas for a city or a region. Consequently, the liquified gas distribution companies will become regional in the near future so that, God willing, the distribution of liquified gas will be done in a fair manner." He added: "Two thousand tons of liquified gas are distributed daily in Iran and with the repair of the gas line between the Esfahan refinery and Tehran the problem of liquified gas will be solved across the country."

Then several officials of the Economic Mobilization Headquarters of the country spoke about fair distribution of rice, household goods as well as providing necessary budget for the committees distributing these goods. At the end of this meeting, Ayatollah Mahallati, the Imam's representative in the Guards Corp and brother Shamkhani, acting chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp provided some explanations on coordination between the government and the Guards Corp, especially regarding the formation of the Ministry of the Guards Corps; and they briefed the cabinet members and governors-general on the latest events and problems of the imposed war. The seminar was concluded with shouts of "God is Great" from the audience.

9741

CSO: 4040/457

ENVOY IN TEHRAN EXPLAINS WHY SYRIA ATTENDED FEZ CONFERENCE

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Sep 82 pp 1, 15

[Interview with Ibrahim Younis]

[Text] Following the conference at Fez and the announcement of its notorious results, and in view of the various positions taken in regard to it by the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, and also in regard to the assassination of Bashir al-Jumayyil and the massacre of innocent Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila, we decided to talk to the ambassador in Tehran of the brother country of Syria, and hear his views regarding these events. During this conversation, the Syrian ambassador explained the reasons for the participation of the Syrian delegation in this conference and described some of their activities which we present here for our interested readers. The Syrian ambassador also expressed his views regarding the imposed war, the observance of War Week and his observations at the Iraqi prisoner of war camp. The text of our political correspondent's interview with the Syrian ambassador in Tehran, Brother Ibrahim Younis is given as follows:

Political Service of ETTELA'AT: Following the conference at Fez, the stands taken in regard to it by member countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the aftermath of Bashir al-Jumayyil's assassination, we interviewed the Syrian ambassador in Iran to obtain his views regarding the above matters as well as the imposed war, the observance of "War Week" and his observations regarding his visit to the Iraqi prisoner of war camp. The interview is presented as follows:

Fez Conference Declarations

Question: The conference at Fez ended with the adoption of certain resolutions. As the ambassador of Syria to the Islamic Republic, please tell us your views and the views of your government regarding the conference's declarations.

Answer: The Fez conference was held following the Zionist attack on Lebanon and the departure of the Palestinians from Beirut. Under these conditions, Syria, which had fought on a large scale within the framework of Arab deterrent forces and inflicted great losses on Israeli armies so that Israel no longer had the strength to occupy important positions, was attacked by the Zionist regime.

The Fez conference was held at a time when the United States launched its savage attack in conjunction with the Zionists' expansion of their occupied lands. The Reagan plan showed clearly the United States' imposition of its views on Palestine and on the Arab governments.

Subjects Discussed at the Fez Conference

Various topics were raised at the Fez conference. A brief list is as follows:

1. Israel's enmity toward the two nations of Lebanon and Palestine.
2. Events that threaten the unity of Arab countries.
3. The relations of Arab countries with each other.
4. The position of the Horn of Africa.
5. The war between Iraq and Iran.
6. Clarification of Arab countries' agreements with each other.

Of course, the fact that discussions were held on these subjects does not imply that no agreement was reached on the various issues; although differences existed in some areas. Most of the resolutions proposed by Arab countries were defeated. For example, the king of Morocco presented the Reagan plan which was rejected; and the Fahd proposal was presented but opposed by Syria which made basic changes in it. One could point out the fourth article (of the manifesto that was passed) over which accord was reached. It is proposed in this section that the Palestinian nation has the right to decide its own destiny. The Palestine Liberation Organization is recognized in this section as the sole legal representative of the people of Palestine, and the legal and permanent rights of the Palestinians are emphasized. We notice that the Fahd proposal does not mention the permanent rights of the Palestinians. Again, in the seventh article, the Security Council has been given the responsibility of ensuring the security of all countries of the area including the country of Palestine, whereas the text of the Fahd proposal in regard to the recognition of the rights of all the countries of the area recognizes only the country of Israel. On no account do we recognize Israel. The Syrian delegation that took part in the Fez conference under the leadership of Mr. Hafiz Assad presented many arguments and participated in many discussions to prevent Arab countries from adopting this position, namely, the recognition of Israel.

In article eight of the Fez declaration, the Security Council of the United Nations is requested to carry out the resolutions passed by the Arab countries without asking the permanent members of the United Nations including the United States.

One could mention the rejection of the Reagan plan which was defeated as a result of Syria's persistent opposition to it, whereas all the Arab countries, including the Palestine Liberation Organization wanted to discuss it. But we rejected the Reagan plan totally.

A number of countries proposed at the Fez conference that a committee should travel to the United States to look into the Reagan plan. This proposal was rejected after discussion, and it was finally agreed that a ministerial conference composed of the countries of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization should be sent on a tour of the permanent member countries of the United Nations to obtain their views and convey their impressions gathered on the tour to the Arab leaders.

But we did not reach an agreement in regard to the present situation in Lebanon, and Lebanon's proposal that "6,000" Palestinians leave Lebanon was rejected. But Syria announced its agreement to recall Syrian forces from Lebanon after an agreement between the two countries of Syria and Lebanon based on the guaranteed withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Fez Conference and Iran-Iraq War

In regard to the Iran-Iraq war, the position of the Syrian delegation led by Mr Hafiz Assad was clear and firm; and no change has taken place in regard to Syria's former stand regarding Iran. First, Saddam spoke for an hour regarding Iraq's position, and accused Arab countries especially Syria of cooperating with Iran. Saddam's speech was supported by Jordan and Morocco. Then Mr Hafiz Assad spoke for 3 hours and rejected and protested against Saddam Husayn's accusations. Mr Assad said, "Agreements and cooperation among the Arabs pertain to opposition to imperialism and Zionism and the agreement is collective, not individual." Mr Hafiz Assad made it clear that the Iran-Iraq war was detrimental to the Arab people, and that the responsibility for it rested on Saddam who had kindled the fire of the war.

Mr Hafiz Assad explained the Syrian Government's position based on preventing the prolongation of the war, and declared that the war had not followed a program. Saddam Husayn had imagined that he could retain forever the territories he had occupied.

Mr Hafiz Assad referred to Jordan's role in fanning the flames of war. In the conference, Mr Hafiz Assad described the crimes committed by Saddam Husayn against Syria, and said that Saddam carried out such subversive activities in Syria through his agents as terrorism and bombing, and had helped the Akhavan-e Muslimin [Muslim Brotherhood]. Mr Hafiz Assad also referred to Saddam's crimes against the people of Iraq, and mentioned the purges carried out by him in the ranks of the Ba'th leadership as evidence that Saddam intended to attack Syria before he attacked Iran.

In his speech, Mr Hafiz Assad referred to the great changes that had taken place in Iran, including the establishment of the Islamic Republic that supported the Arab nations and was opposed to Zionism and imperialism.

Syria and the Fez Conference

Syria played an important part in the Fez conference and was able to set back imperialism's plans and thwart the Fahd proposals regarding which many plans had been made, and the Reagan plan which was to have been welcomed by the

Arabs. In this conference, no compromises were reached between Syria and Iraq and Syria and Jordan. During the conference, the king of Morocco announced that if no written opposition to Iraq's plan was received, it would be approved. At this juncture, Syria sent a written protest to the Iraqi plan and nullified it.

Throughout the conference, Syria was in total harmony with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front (except for Libya which was not present).

Countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front have a perfect understanding in regard to political issues; and Syria was forced to participate in the conference because the Palestine Liberation Organization had announced ahead of Syria that it would participate in the conference, and Syria did not want it to attend the conference alone.

Causes and Effects of Bashir al-Jumayyil's Death

Question: Kindly state your views regarding the causes and effects of Bashir al-Jumayyil's assassination.

Answer: In its announcement, Syria regarded Israel as the causative agent in Al-Jumayyil's death. Israel took advantage of the incident to create disorder in Lebanon and prolong its military occupation. Although Bashir al-Jumayyil was the leader of the Lebanese Phalangists and was a separatist who became president as a result of American support and Zionist pressure tactics, in the last few days of his life he had declined to sign a peace treaty with Israel because Syria had warned him that if he signed such a treaty, he would be in a state of war with Syria.

Of course, individuals are not important to us. We want a national and stable government to come into office in Lebanon. We are ready to help the Muslim and brother country of Lebanon (whether Muslim or Christian, they are all our brothers) in order that they may stay free and decide their own fate. The assassination of one man cannot change the course of a society.

Question: What is Syria's position regarding the barbaric Zionist attack after Al-Jumayyil's death?

Answer: Israel is a racist, barbaric and nazi country. It commits numerous crimes and takes advantage of every opportunity to carry out its designs.

It is the duty of Zionists to kill, plunder and terrorize the innocent. It is necessary, therefore, to confront them forcefully because they understand only the language of force.

No human can accept the recent killings by Israel. The whole world condemns it, except the corrupt imperialist conscience. They sit and watch these unparalleled crimes silently; but they resorted to every conceivable action when the 50 hostages were held in the American Embassy in Tehran.

We are confident of victory, and our struggle continues. We are certain of the support of the millions of Arab Muslim masses. Our war is a war between good and evil; between a movement for freedom and criminal imperialism. The basis of our movement is the fundamental and total contrast between Muslim nations and imperialists and Zionists.

Differing Attitude of Member Countries of Steadfastness and Confrontation Front

Question: In regard to the Fez conference, we witnessed differing positions taken by the member countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Mr Qadhdhahi did not participate in the conference. Mr Chadli Bendjedid sent his foreign minister. Mr 'Ali Nasir Mohammed withdrew from the conference. What is the reason for these differing reactions? In view of the fact that criminal Israel is directing new and more serious threats toward Muslims, should we not be witnessing greater unanimity and united action among the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front?

Answer: There are no differences among the countries of the Steadfastness and Stability Front. The participating delegations were in harmony with each other, but did not adhere to a single position. Algeria, South Yemen, the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria all participated in the conference. Chadli Bendjedid did not participate personally because the conference was held in Morocco, but sent a high-level delegation under the leadership of the foreign minister. Similarly, Mr 'Ali Nasir Muhammed participated in the conference, but left because of personal reasons and illness. The delegation accompanying 'Ali Nasir Muhammed to the conference was composed of the highest level party and political members of the country. Libya did not participate in the conference for reasons of its own; we have no differences with Libya on this issue. Mr Hafiz Assad sent two personal representatives to Libya and Iran, and these were the only two capitals to which Syria sent its representatives. The delegation to Libya was led by Abdul Halim Khoddam and the delegation to Iran was led by Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, the Syrian minister of information.

We are on Iran's side today and there are no differences between us in regard to strategic matters; but it is quite normal for each of us to have our own tactical style.

The Position of the Syrian Government Regarding the Imposed War

Question: In view of the approaching second anniversary of the imposed war and on occasion of War Week, I would like to know your views about the imposed war as an ambassador of a friendly country.

Answer: Iraq started this war as an American surrogate, and the war will not benefit anyone except the United States and Zionism. By starting the war against Iran, Saddam Husayn deprived us of Iraq's human, military, economic and other resources which could have been used against Israel.

Saddam Husayn not only did not use Iraq's forces in the fight against Israel, but prevented Iran's military, economic and political forces from being placed on our side.

After the Islamic revolution triumphed under the spiritual leadership of the Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni who invited all the Muslims to act against Zionist aggression and the imperialists, the Islamic revolution sent its forces to Syria to show its support for us and asked all Muslim nations to fight against the Zionists. The Islamic revolution is a bright spot in the history of humanity and a beacon in the movement of the oppressed against the arrogant of the world. We respect this revolution and support it, and for the following reasons consider it a vanguard revolution:

- 1) From the political point of view, it is a revolution against imperialists and zionists.
- 2) From the social point of view, the revolution sides with workers, wage earners and the oppressed against the arrogant.
- 3) From the economic point of view, it moves toward economic independence and self-sufficiency.
- 4) From the cultural point of view, it strives for the spread of Islamic culture throughout the world and among all the people.
- 5) From the humanitarian point of view, with its principle of neither East nor West; its invitation to equality and brotherhood among all nations; the rejection of hostilities that divide humans; the revolution fights against national prejudice. It moves with all its potentials in the direction of the dissemination of Islamic culture in the world. It is for these reasons that we consider the Islamic revolution in Iran a vanguard revolution; and in this regard we have no other aim in view than the world of God and service to the objectives of Arab struggle and jihad.

9863

CSO: 4640/5

ISLAMIC COUNCILS OF FACTORIES HOLD FIRST CONGRESS

Inauguration by Minister of Labor

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 28 Sep 82 pp 6-7

[Text] The first congress of Islamic Councils of Factories in Tehran opened in Labour House in Tehran on September 20, 1982, Ahmad Tavakoli, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Mostafa Hashemi, the Minister of Industry and the members of Islamic Councils participated in this congress. The congress began by the intervention of some of representatives of Islam Councils. Some critical approaches were made by these representatives. For example the representative of Karaj pointed out that according to the constitution presented by the Ministry of Labour the Islamic Councils could only have say in the method of production and supervision of production process and had no say on other aspects of the work. Even this limited power has now been taken away from the Islamic Councils. The official and legal councils are not even reorganized. The Karaj representative then asked the Minister of Labour to look into the present situation. He then inquired about the holidays of the workers. The Karaj representative asked "why should the clerks and white collar workers have a month off a year and the workers have only 12 days off? Also why should workers be retired at the age of 55 after 30 years work; no worker can have time to enjoy retirement period after 30 years of hard work."

The next speaker was the representative of the Islamic Councils of Labour House, East Tehran. He questioned the problem of Labour-Law and Islamic Societies. He demanded a strong organisation to coordinate the Islamic Councils and work out the Labour Law and other workers problems. He then asked for more power be given to the Councils.

The next speaker was from Islamic Councils of Old Karaj Road. He indicated that the main problem of the Councils are the management of the factories, who are appointed by the government. He pointed out that "the managements promise many things but in practice do not carry out their promises. Employments, expulsions and decision making are done by the management without even advising the Islamic Councils. When the Councils object to this method of work, they say that because of the war we should not have any objections."

The Minister of Industry was the next speaker. While rejecting the objections of the workers he said: "the management in Capitalist and Communist systems is a kind of dictatorship, while in Islam the aims of management are different. In Islam we move towards Allah (God) and the management should do the same." He added that "we should not want the management only for organising production, we should want the management for showing the way towards our aim."

The final speaker was the Minister of Labour, who related the conditions of work to Islamic Laws and answered the relevant questions (JOMHOURI ISLAMI, Sept. 20).

The Congress ended on September 21, 1982 and the Islamic Councils representatives passed a 10 point motion, which included a point demanding that the decisions at the factory floors should be taken by a general assembly. At this assembly the manager should also have a vote as other workers and not a decisive vote. (JOMHOURI ISLAMI, Sept. 23, 1982).

*For Islamic Councils see the Report in this issue.

Address by Majlis Deputy Hoseyn Kamali

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 28 Sep 82 pp 8-11

[Text] We this week bring our dear readers the views of Majlis Deputy Hossein Kamali, on the workers' councils. In our conversation with Kamali, he while explaining the performance of the Islamic workers' councils and their present condition, called for the abolishing of Article 32 of the Labour Law and greater attention to the important role of the councils in industrial plants and production units. Here is the detailed version of this conversation:

Question: Would you give a detailed account of the history of the Islamic workers' councils since the inception of the Islamic Revolution and their positive effect?

Answer: To make a survey of these councils and the extent of their performance, let us go back four years to the period when the Revolution was gaining momentum every day and the satanic elements as well as the foreign-linked capitalists were surrendering or fleeing in the face of the stormy waves of the Islamic Ummah. Of course, it was not merely the escape of the capitalists but also the flight with them of the capital that was amassed in many long years. In those days, there were, among the personnel of industrial and production units, such individuals who enjoyed greater link with the Muslim combatants and revolutionary elements, who formed Islamic revolutionary committees or "Strike committees," and later continued their functioning under the name of "Islamic Councils."

These committees had the following major roles:

1. With the exit of capitalists, factories were being closed down, and as a result, no wages were being paid to workers. These committees obtained money from the individuals in a better financial condition and distributed the same among the needy workers so that they could lead their lives.
2. Prevention of the sale of machine tools and equipment of factories: By selling the machine tools and implements of plants to smaller sectors, the capitalists tried to secure cash money and send the same abroad in the form of foreign exchange. In this regard the "Strike committees" of the factories succeeded, to a considerable extent, in checking such a sale.
3. Checking the escape of capitalists: close to the victory of the Revolution, these committees managed

to prevent the escape from the country of some of the capitalists. After the victory too, many of the foreign-linked capitalists, surrendered themselves to the Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office, and they were duly punished or their files processed. 4. Purge in factories: After clashes with capitalists, their agents tried to cause disruption in factories. They created riots every day, and changed their complexion to depict themselves as revolutionaries, and to gradually stage strikes in plants. When the files of many of them were probed into later, it became quite evident that the Savak elements had led these slogan-shouting groups, or these were the elements associated with the anti-revolutionary groups as in case of "Cheet Tehran" and "Saka" plants. These councils later had tough clashes with the capitalists and their agents, as also with the Pseudo-leftist groups, and purged them from factories. 5. Putting into operation factories: During all these clashes, the councils, despite the lack of raw materials and other problems emanating from the non-repair of industrial units and lack of specialisation, started to put back into operation industrial plants. In a very brief period of time, they managed to re-operate many of the factories, and thus to gradually strengthen the foundations of the Islamic Government.

Moreover, the "Strike committees" were changed in form and nature after the victory of the Revolution to become "Islamic councils" within the factories. Initially, these councils had no legal constitution and manifesto, but the constitutions were drafted with the help of the revolutionaries in factories. There were also brought into existence constitutions with the help of the Muslim students working in various plants or the Workers' House. Later, these constitutions were reviewed by the then Labour Ministry headed by Mr. Nematzadeh. Necessary changes were made in it and the finalised constitution was sent to the Revolutionary Council for approval. Afterwards, in the days of the ministership of Mir. Mohammad Sadeghi, a notification was sent by the Industries Ministry through the Revolutionary Council to the Labour Ministry for implementation which endorsed the performance of the councils. The Labour Ministry prepared the relevant executive regulations and sent the same to various factories for the formation of Workers' Councils. Until that time, these councils were of illegal nature and there existed several problems in them. However, afterwards, there came some legal aspects in their functioning, and they were provided with a general program and mode of work all over the country. This notification was of an experimental nature and of 1-year duration, and hence after that period, the task on formation of Workers' Councils was suspended. Presently, only those councils are functioning that were set up during that period and their 1-year term hasn't yet expired.

Question: What is the present state of the Workers' Councils, and how are they functioning?

Answer: In the course of their functioning, the Workers' Councils, has clashed in factories specifically in some cases: First, the anti-revolutionaries all of whom they couldn't uproot; second, the liberalist managers who existed and also exist now in various units; third, probe into some of the files of the pre- and post-revolutionary eras related to misappropriation of funds, etc. However, after the work on formation of the councils was suspended, the process of probe into files in many of the industrial units came to a stop. As a

result, the opportunists managed, with the help of faked documents, to get themselves exonerated, or they tried to bring to the fore such individuals who could no more probe into their files. Same was the case with managerial cadre. There were managements in conflict with the Workers' Councils while the latter sought justice from them and brought up the prevailing problems. These councils defended the interests of the government, society and workers. However, managements have now got the opportunity, by doing away with the immunity of the councils, expel them from factories. Currently, these expulsions have been intensified, and with the expulsion of councils, many anti-revolutionaries have sided with the liberal managers, and are causing obstruction in affairs.

So, this is the situation with such councils which are not to be reformed at present. But there exist councils whose functioning is still valid but on account of the lack of attention to them and the adverse propaganda against them, they don't possess the previous authority. Due to the absence of relevant law (as the former law has already been suspended), such councils are being neglected or treated unfavourably. However, these were the councils which actually acted as the pillars of the revolution and extended help to it. So, in the present circumstances, such a hostile and shocking treatment shouldn't have been meted out to them, but unfortunately it has been so. Presently, the functioning of most of these councils is being obstructed, and they cannot, in a proper way, bring up and pursue their problems in executive organisations.

Question: After the end of experimental period and suspension of the councils' formation, what adverse effects have appeared in the overall movement of the councils, and what measures could have been taken to check them?

Answer: Vividly, the officials in the executive organisations who had become aware of the expiration of the experimental period of the councils, had also felt that they can present a bill on the issue to the Ministerial Council in order to renew the duration of these councils in order to prevent the suspension of their work. This could well have been followed up by a bill on legislation of the councils and giving them permanence. But our brethren didn't take such a measure, and pursued the other path which was to suspend the functioning of the councils which created problems.

Question: Is it practicable to implement the Councils' Law in the absence of an Islamic Labour Law? For example, the presence of Article 33 of the Labour Law which acts as a stumbling block in the way of the councils and which has already accounted for the expulsion of many Muslim and committed workers by capitalists and liberal managers. What measures have been taken, especially by the Workers' House to check its adverse effects that have caused deviation in the line of the Islamic Revolution and pessimism among workers?

Answer: The Workers' House, in its capacity as a revolutionary institution has, through contact with the government officials, managed to resolve some of the problems, and take some steps. But as it is neither an executive unit nor a legislative body, it is faced with certain problems. These are the problems confronted by our brethren in various factories. Most of the problems put before the Workers' House relate to the expulsions. The individuals, who are

defending the economic and social sovereignty of Islam are being expelled and are also bluntly told to go and complain in this regard to any authority they can. Of course, the Islamic Government cannot remain indifferent in the face of such expulsion of the revolutionary elements from factories. As such Article 33, related to the expulsion of workers, should be abolished and replaced by revolutionary laws to guarantee Islamic rights of workers rather than giving sole authority to a manager to expel any workers at will. As to the councils' issue, we have reviewed the Councils' Bill in the Majlis Commission approving nearly 32 of its articles. There exist some very strong articles in it which would resolve workers' problems. But specifically, there has to exist the Labour Law along side the Councils' Law. The Labour Minister, in a recent meeting with Imam Khomeyni, promised to begin the drafting of the new Labour Law. In this regard Ayatollah Montazeri too has named his representative to work in the Majlis Commission. A bill would thus soon be drafted by the government and sent to the Majlis which is expected to resolve all the workers' problems. But till the time such a law is not approved, the councils, being formed under the provisions of the Councils' Law, can themselves resolve their problems, for instance, this expulsion of workers. The related law in this regard has approved the expulsion of workers through consultation with the councils, and we hope its endorsement would not come across any obstacle so that these expulsions could be checked forever.

Question: Don't the restrictions on councils in factories come in the way of their activities? What provisions have been made in the draft bill of the Islamic councils law in this respect?

Answer: Generally, the factor responsible for such restrictions is the obstruction that is caused by some of the councils. For example, we observe that in some factories, the councils don't even work for one hour in a day while its officials sit all the day round in their offices. In case the councils really attend to their business without wasting any time, and return to their work in factories after that, there would certainly exist no restrictions in terms of time. It has also been seen in some cases that some individuals have, while pretending themselves as office-bearers of councils, gone out of the factory premises, but actually engaged themselves in other activities. This has led to some pessimism. Actually, the persons who commit such acts neither belong to any council nor believe in it. Restricting the exit of council members from the factories causes obstacles. With the approval of the councils' law and the restrictions which we have put on the election of ideologically suitable individuals, there would be chosen useful persons in the councils. To facilitate their work it is essential for the councils to set up contact with other units outside the factory, and workers and industrial centers in the country. Due to this reason, the council members must spend greater number of hours outside factories which we hope would smooth out the problems of workers.

CSO: 4600/46

COOPERATIVES ACCUSED OF BLACK MARKET OPERATIONS

Theran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Aug 82 p 12

[Letter from grocer citing interview with head of Iran Tobacco Company]

[Text] Finally the managing director of the Iran Tobacco Company, in a press and radio-television interview, revealed the great secret of a cigarette black market and exposed the "worker and employee cooperative companies" as the agents of the black market! We say well done, bravo for this discovery, which crushed the hopes of the cooperatives with one smashing kick. Now they realize that their fault has been uncovered. Really, what right do they have to give cigarettes to their members at government prices, when, to quote the tobacco company's managing director, their members were getting cigarettes both from local cooperatives and cooperatives at their workplace--meaning they were playing fast and loose. Let us figure it out: "If one family with at least one cigarette smoker got three packs of cigarettes a week from the local cooperative, and three cartons of cigarettes a week from his company cooperative! No, excuse me, three cartons of cigarettes was the quota for employees of the Tobacco Company cooperatives, and a mistake cropped up here. Well, as we were saying, if the same family with at least one cigarette smoker, after getting its three weekly packs of cigarettes from its local cooperative, also perhaps got two or three packs from a work cooperative once every two or three weeks, do you know what the result is? If you figure it out on your fingers you see that this family, through its unfair cigarette smoking member, grabbed 360 cigarettes a month. Of course one person cannot smoke 12 cigarettes daily. (Of course you must realize we are speaking of families with one cigarette smoker. We are not concerned with families with two or three cigarette smokers who must take their portion from the same 360 cigarettes. What does it matter to us!) Thus we have a person who cannot smoke 12 cigarettes daily, or can only do so foolishly. Thus he puts a few of them aside, and starts up a black market.

Really, what tricksters they are! However, praise God, our minds were put at ease by the promise of the managing director of the tobacco company. We realized that by cutting off the quotas to the cooperative companies at the workplace, these kinds of tricks will not only no longer be imaginable, but that the cigarette black market will be destroyed quickly. Nazeh, the tobacco company managing director, also promised to increase the quota of

cigarettes to grocers by 4.5 million packs. Truly, the grocers have tried very hard and rendered great service to lessen the cigarette shortage and eliminate it. After all, do you know of a grocer who tells you, when you have stopped by to get your weekly neighborhood cigarette ration, that he has run out and he does not have any? I cannot remember any, I do not know about you. Whether at the beginning or end of the week, even Fridays. Any time that my household has gone to the grocers to get cigarettes, he has placed our ration in our hands with a smiling face. Recently we have heard of grocers who have taken cigarette rations to people's homes and distributed them there. The grocers really oppose the black market strongly, and they daily and hourly vilify and insult the blackmarketeers.

In any case, we welcome the revelation and interesting initiative of the tobacco company's managing director, and we ask God for his success.

Signed: Grocer Without Cigarettes

9597

CSO: 4640/466

TABRIZ AREA GETS NEW ELECTRIC POWER TRANSFORMER

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Aug 82 p 12

[Interview with Engr Hoseyni, manager of the Northwest area of TAVANIR]

[Text] Tabriz--KEYHAN correspondent--Finally, after nearly four [years], following the mopping-up of the Takab area, a 90-megawatt transformer belonging to the TAVANIR Company has been transported to the Sardrud, Tabriz high-voltage power station. KEYHAN's correspondent in Tabriz contacted brother Engineer Hoseyni, manager of the northwest area of the TAVANIR Company, and asked him what changes would be produced in the electric power of Tabriz and the province through the transport and installation of this transformer. He stated: "This transformer had remained on Takab Road since before the victory of the revolution. Due to the existence of elements of illegal parties in the locality, the contractor put the transformer on a pedestal and left the area. During this period, the transformer remained as it was on the pedestal. Later the contractor came, put the transformer on the ground, and took away the pedestal. Fortunately, this area on the Takab-Miandoab axis, meaning Shahin Dezh, was recently purged of the elements of illegal parties by the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam. We were able with great difficulty to transport the 126-ton transformer and its 220-ton pedestal to the Sardrud, Tabriz high-tension electric-power station using a 90-wheel trailer." He added: "The power of this transformer is 90-megawatt-amperes. It will increase the city's level of electric-power transfer and will be very beneficial for the city's electric power." Asked as to when this equipment would be installed and ready for operation, he answered: "The transformer will be installed and in operation within two months."

9597

CSO: 4640/466

'IZZAT IBRAHIM ADDRESSES BA'TH MILITARY CADRES

JN121707 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 82

[Text] Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy secretary general of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, today attended a symposium organized by the advanced cadres of the Ba'th Party military branch in the III Army Corps. During the symposium, the RCC vice chairman stressed the need to implement revolutionary Arab principles in the relations of struggle through sacrifices and efforts so as to protect the revolution and its march, ward off the threats of aggression against Iraq and foil enemy attempts to harm its great achievements. He said that our martyrs, who embodied the great Arab principles, have been the beacon of light which will lead Iraqi generations in the march of development and construction of Iraq and the Arab nation. Ibrahim said that the spirit of sacrifice and giving in this noble battle will be derived from the party's principles and values and from the sacrifices of the martyrs for the sake of our creed and supreme aims of realizing the aspirations of our party and nation.

Ibrahim pointed out that our brave armed forces fought the enemy with revolutionary faith and a belief in sublime human values which reject humiliation, aggression and usurpation. Our forces will continue their fight based on genuine traditions of struggle and will continue to sacrifice because of their absolute faith in the just cause of our people and for sovereignty, dignity and independence. He stressed the need for more training, better combat ability and greater readiness to face the aggressors and foil their evil intentions.

The cadres expressed their readiness to increase their sacrifices under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the supreme commander of the armed forces, in order to preserve the spirit of victory and realize the aims of our homeland, revolution and nation.

The symposium was attended by the secretary of the Basra military branch of the Ba'th Party, the members of the Ba'th Party Branch Command and the advanced cadres of the party.

CSO: 4400/37

AZERI BROADCAST HOLDS KHOMEYNI RESPONSIBLE FOR BLAST

GF051219 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 4 Oct 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, Khomeyni has once again stated that the blast in Naser Khosrow was plotted through the hands of U.S. agents and culprits within Iran. According to what this (?oppressor) said, the Mojahedin, by creating such an incident, wished to suppress news about the so-called and illusionary victories achieved by the Khomeyni dregs at the battlefronts. However, we address the following question to Khomeyni's gang of impostors and to the impostor himself in person: Mr Oppressor and imam of our time, what are the victories you are talking about? What is the outcome of the consecutive attacks launched by your aggressive forces? Where have your forces reached? You have resorted to this crime with a view to keeping secret your oppressive plans and your incalculable moral and material losses.

As is common knowledge to the poor Iranian peoples, Iraq has been forced to wage this bloody and imposed war. The Iraqi people are quite aware of your character. The heroic peoples of the two countries know you all well.

Yes, the people know you very well. The people also know well that such tragic crimes are committed not by the Mojahid sons of the people, but by the blood-dripping hands belonging to parasites and (?inhuman) elements like you. You will not be able to conceal from the people, through conspiracies, scenarios, demonstrations and out of place statements, the bloody faces of those who have caused this tragic crime. The people know the murderers well. The people also know well that since their establishment, revolutionary and populist organizations, such as the Mojahedin-e Khalq and the (?Feda'iyen-e Khalq), have never created such incidents. These organizations are devoid of guilt regarding this incident and others similar to it. Not even during the shah's era did these organizations resort to such inhuman and anti-populist actions. Obviously, they have become deeply rooted throughout Iran and are being supported by the poor Iranian peoples.

CSO: 4400/37

GENERAL COMMENTS ON PROGRESS OF RECENT BATTLES

JN100920 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 10 Oct 82

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)--The brigadier general who commands the al-Na'man forces has stated that Iranian forces carried out attacks on a 36-km front in the central sector of the battlefield.

In an interview with the weekly paper AL-YARMUK, organ of the Defense Ministry's Political Guidance Department, the commander of the al-Na'man forces said that the Iranian enemy had used regular infantry, armored and paratroop forces which it had been preparing for battle for the past 2 months, in addition to more than 30,000 volunteers, in its attempt to cross Iraq's international borders.

The commander said that the enemy had prepared for its treacherous attack with an indiscriminate artillery barrage after which its forces moved from 18 principal staging areas in an attempt to entrench their positions on the border hills. He added that, in the second phase of their attack, the Iranian forces had planned to occupy Iraqi territory and cities such as Mandali.

The commander of the al-Na'man forces said that the enemy began its attacks on 1 October by launching large-scale attacks backed by intensive artillery shelling, then moved the huge troop concentrations it had massed for this invasion forward. In the wake of very fierce battles, the al-Na'man forces and other Iraqi units successfully repulsed the enemy forces and checked their advance. On the second day, the enemy carried out a new attack, during the first stage of which its forces succeeded in obtaining several footholds in some of the Iraqi forces' defense lines. He added that the Iraqi units succeeded in containing the attack and in counterattacking according to a previously prepared plan. The sound implementation of this plan enabled the al-Na'man forces to achieve victory, destroy the forces which had reached their positions and control the situation.

The commander of the al-Na'man forces indicated that the enemy had repeated its attacks in a more restricted manner until the evening of 5 October when

the Iraqi forces foiled the largest attack that the enemy had launched in 2 years. He said that this battle lasted 17 hours, during which the Iraqi fighters rushed forward with unprecedented courage and prevented the enemy forces from gaining a foothold on any of the Iraqi territory. In this battle, the Iraqi fighters have proven once again that they deserve being called Iraq's shield in the central sector.

The commander of the al-Na'man forces said that his forces are now in full control of the situation.

CSO: 4400/37

NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON WAR VICTORIES; DESIRE FOR PEACE

JN070938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Oct 82

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Oct (INA)--The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the current battles in the Mandali area have proved to the world that the Iraqi Army is strong and capable of waging battles in defense of Iraq's sovereignty and the Arabs' territory.

In an editorial entitled "From the Peak of Victory We Assert the Desire for Peace," AL-THAWRAH today says: Through the past 2 years the Iraqi Army has been dealing painful blows to the suspect aggressors of the Khomeyni regime and its aides and scoring one victory after another on land, sea and in the air.

It adds: Despite all its victories Iraq has thought neither of expansion at the expense of Iran nor sought to humiliate the Iranian peoples, who are afflicted by Khomeyni's hegemony and oppression. It points out that Iraq has welcomed and encouraged all mediations to put an end to the war through negotiations in accordance with international norms and charters and has also withdrawn its forces from Iranian territories.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Tehran rulers persist in their aggressive policy, imagining that Iraq's peaceful initiatives are a sign of weakness and exhaustion. Therefore, they escalated their threats and tried to penetrate Iraq's international borders in the Basra and Mandali areas. The paper indicates that the Tehran rulers, from those two aggression, reaped only further casualties and the loss of their best military divisions.

It asserts that the Iraqis will continue to firmly and resolutely defend Iraq and its pan-Arab and humanitarian principles as well as the Arab nation and the honor of its men. It adds that victory will be the lot of the Iraqis and defeat and loss the lot of the Khomeyni regime and its collapsing forces. Nevertheless, Iraq will continue to stress and adhere to its desire for a just peace whether this is asserted at the battlefronts, if the Tehran rulers want, or through negotiations.

AL-THAWRAH adds that our call for peace does not stem from fear or apprehension for the future of cohesive and united Iraq, whose people and armed forces rally around their great leadership, but stems basically from our feeling of national and pan-Arab responsibility.

The paper adds: If the Tehran rulers want to try their luck in another battle, we are quite ready as it will prove to be a new victory that will be added to the record of our splendid victories.

Concluding, the paper says: The Iranian enemy's new defeat will be an overwhelming defeat to be added to the series of other defeats inflicted on the enemy since it began its aggressive war against great Iraq.

CSO: 4400/37

BAGHDAD RADIO COMMENTS ON IMPERIALISM, IRAN

GF041454 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Oct 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] All those who followed the events in the war between Iraq and Iran asked a sharp question several months after the war's start. The question was: Why does the war continue in a dangerous and inflammable region? Why didn't the superpowers move seriously in an attempt to stop the war? Is it true that the various mediations were really serious in reaching a starting point to resolve the dispute between the two countries?

All these questions remained without official answers except for some special analyses on the problem. The questions continued even after the formal [word indistinct] in the minds of many people concerning Iraq's retention of some of Iran's territory ended following the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to international borders last June.

Why doesn't the international community move to force the stubborn side to submit to the international will that has been calling for peace. All these questions are not easy to answer without referring to some background in the subject of the long-established conflict in the Arab region, particularly the Arab-Zionist conflict. This is one side.

The other side is that the issue of the changing situation in 1979 continues to be one of the complex problems that involves major secrets. It is not easy for an ordinary human being to realize so simply how the situation in Iran was changed. Is it true that Iran's shah was not the loyal friend of the United States and thus deserved this malicious treachery so rapidly? Following his removal from power, the shah summarized his tragedy with that famous statement: "They have deceived me and let me down." He meant the U.S. administration under President Carter.

Those who follow the events in world politics know well that the United States is very anxious about its interests wherever they are and seeks to protect them no matter how costly this may turn out to be in a manner that does not

affect its strategic interests in the world. In the meantime, imperialism seeks to commission agents to guard its interests in various parts of the world. The shah was one of those commissioned friends in the Middle East in addition to its primary reliance on the Zionist entity in Palestine.

When the United States and Zionism wanted to put an end to the Palestinian questions they embarked on a plan to disable the effective Arab power which could confront the Zionist entity. In view of this plan a number of events followed in the region. The first of these was the Lebanese crisis beginning in 1976. The second was the exclusion of Egypt as a military and human power from the Arab body as a result of the Camp David agreements. The third was preoccupying Iraq--the second military and human power next to Egypt. In order for the preoccupation to be effective, acceptable and enclosed in known boundaries, the dramatic change in Iran was effected. The shah went out and Khomeyni came in wearing the robes of Islam and announcing from the first day he assumed power his entity to Iraq and his malice to the Arabs and the Islamic countries.

Indeed, Khomeyni was able to carry out his outrageous aggression against Iraq in a manner that the shah himself could not have been able to follow in order for public opinion to remain silent or confused concerning the adoption of a decision in the interest of truth, peace and humanity. Thus, public opinion could not understand initially the nature of the Iraqi reply to the Khomeyni aggression on 22 September 1980. The political and international powers did not contribute to the settlement of the conflict between the two sides as a service for peace as logic dictates and as the general interest of the region's peoples necessitate.

However, the central goal in the mentality of imperialism is to preoccupy Iraq for the longest possible time until the plot of totally sealing the Palestinian issue is completed.

CSO: 4400/37

PAPER URGES ARABS TO HONOR FES COMMITMENTS ON WAR

JN041114 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 4 Oct 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA)--The newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts that the Fes summit resolutions on the Iranian aggression represent a new development and a positive transformation in the Arab position on this issue.

In an article published today, the paper says that the implementation of these resolutions is dictated by the insistence of the Iranian regime on continuing the war with Iraq. This situation makes it incumbent on the Arab states to stand by their solidarity with Iraq, to translate these resolutions into practical actions and to begin their actual implementation.

AL-THAWRAH calls for a serious and actual Arab stand toward the aggressive Iranian regime either by severing Arab political, economic and financial relations with this regime or by carrying out the Arab states' commitments toward Iraq in accordance with Article VI of the Arab League Charter and Article II of the collective Arab defense pact and providing Iraq not only with moral but material and military support.

The paper asserts that Iraq's battle is basically a pan-Arab one: it is a battle in defense of the Arabism of the Gulf and a battle of confrontation against the Iranian regime's evil and expansionist intentions and designs to transform the Arab Gulf region into a sphere of influence and extension of it. This war does not only aim at Iraq but at the whole Arab land, a fact which the Iranian rulers emphasize by their daily threats and hostile statements.

AL-THAWRAH points out that Iraq's call on the Arab states to implement the Fes summit resolutions concerning the Iranian aggression in accordance with the collective Arab defense pact and the Arab League Charter did not stem from fear, inability or security protection but out of Iraq's concern about the future of Arab solidarity and the need for confronting any foreign aggression which might threaten the safety, security and existence of the Arab nation.

The paper adds: There is no doubt that the Arab brothers are aware of this fact and that they are firmly confident that the steadfast and victorious Iraq is able to crush and destroy any new aggression and to protect its borders, land and dignity. This is what is now taking place in the central operational sector.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by pointing out that the official Arab stand in general since the beginning of the Iranian regime's aggression and up until now was less than the required Arab solidarity. The paper also says that the deviation of some of the Arab regimes was a basic factor which encouraged the Iranian regime to step up its aggression, intransigence and arrogance, and consequently, to continue the war against Iraq without any logical and objective justification.

CSO: 4400/37

BRIEFS

KENYAN PARLIAMENTARIANS--Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)--Na'im Haddad, the Iraqi National Assembly speaker, met with a Kenyan parliamentary delegation under (Joseph Martin Shikuku) here today. The Iraqi and Kenyan officials discussed means of developing the strong relations between the Arab nation and the African peoples and of strengthening their common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism. [Text] [JN101455 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Oct 82]

IRANIAN, IRAQI FORCES--Message to all Iranian armed forces personnel, to all misled people and to the so-called mobilization and revolution guard forces: You witnessed the fire in your arms depots; your units have asked for help but this help will never come; the bodies of your dead cover the fields; the stench of corpses is smelled everywhere; various diseases are threatening each and every one of you. If you escaped the air attacks, you should thank God for it. Come to the Iraqi positions, holding a white flag or even a piece of white cloth, and ask for help and medicine. All your requests will be fulfilled and any type of assistance necessary will be extended to you. Your lives and the future of your families will be ensured with food, clothing and medicine. As you can see, the Iraqis are stationed on their territory and will not retreat from their strong positions. Therefore, to avoid being killed for an anti-Iranian and anti-Islamic regime, join the Muslim Iraqi forces. Rest assured that the Iraqi armed forces personnel will welcome you with open arms. [Text] [NC050937 Baghdad Radio in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 5 Oct 82]

CSO: 4400/37

AIR FORCE OFFICER DISCUSSES LEBANON BATTLES

Tel Aviv BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR in Hebrew No 28, Jul 82 Special Insert 2 pp 1, 3

[Article by Meyrav Halperin: "'Our Aircraft Ensured Clean Sky; During the 5 Days of the War 82 Aircrafts and four Helicopters Were Downed; The Air Force Gave Direct Support to Advancing Units; It Picked Up Wounded from Battlefields and Provided Equipment, Food and Ammunition to Ground Units; Anti-Aircraft Units Were Active on All Routes; The Air Force Performed Observation and Transport Tasks Throughout the North"]

[Text] The highlight of the "Peace for Galilee" campaign was undoubtedly the attack on the missiles in eastern Lebanon. This attack was preceded by days of intensive fighting in which all kinds of Air Force planes played a decisive role. The elimination of the missile batteries and the downing of scores of enemy aircraft almost made us forget the activities of the Air Force during the first days of the fighting. But at Air Force headquarters no one underestimates those activities. On the contrary, the lessons are already being learned, and future sorties are planned accordingly.

"After the massive softening up operation the activity of the Air Force focused mainly in providing support for the ground forces," an air group commander explains. "The Air Force ensured cover for our soldiers, helped them advance, and thanks to the direct support given to each advancing unit, the ground force was able to move fast with minimum losses. The Air Force also helped bring forces to the battlefield, removed the wounded from the battlefield and provided equipment, food and ammunition for the units in the areas held by our forces. The mobile anti-aircraft regiments were actively involved on all the routes of the attack and provided anti-aircraft defense against enemy aircraft and helicopters. During the fighting the Air Force carried out observation and transport tasks throughout the entire northern region."

Successful Combination

One of the lessons already learned is based on the success of the cooperation among the ground, sea and air forces. "There is no doubt that the Lebanese battlefield proved the constant need for cooperation and joint training of the forces. One of the main achievements in this respect was the landing of forces near Sidon. This operation was a successful combination of air, land and sea."

Extrication from Beaufort

"Another aspect of land-air cooperation can be seen in the activities of the helicopters. They had been assigned some of the most dangerous tasks of this war. They had to fly at low altitudes, land in areas full of terrorists and extricate the wounded from the battlefield. One particularly daring removal of wounded soldiers took place at the Beaufort castle. While the battle continued a helicopter landed at the castle and removed the wounded.

"The IDF tradition of not leaving any wounded behind prompted the helicopter crews to take risks and not give up until their work was completed." "Other lessons were learned from combining the new combat means of the force. The new fighters, the assault helicopters and the various new weapon systems acquired a great deal of battlefield experience that have made us much wiser."

"In general I may add that planning and execution in the "Peace for Galilee" campaign have matched each other."

Unprecedented Operation

The steps that led to the decision of the timing and the mode of operation of the attack on the missile batteries are recounted by Brig General A, group commander: "It should be pointed out that the batteries had enabled the terrorists to fire at us from eastern Lebanon. The Syrians had provided them with an air umbrella and missile protection that permitted them to operate unhindered. During the 2 days before the attack the Syrians used their batteries against our aircraft. Their interference could have affected the ground progress of the IDF. We reached the decision we could not overlook the missiles, and the political and military decision was made to attack the batteries."

The group commander sees the operation as unprecedented in Israel's and the Middle East's history. He points out that not since World War II has there been an air battle in which so many airplanes were shot down. Certainly there has not been a battle in which the losses were so one-sided. This happened despite of a dangerous attack mission and active resistance of enemy forces.

The Clash

"The operation took 2 hours," says Brig General A. "Our attacking aircraft clashed with about 100 MiG-21s and MiG-23s that came to the area in waves. The planes were ostensibly sent to protect the area against the Israeli Air Force. This is absurd, since one does not have to protect missile sites. The missiles themselves are designed to hit aircraft.

"The moment our airplanes appeared above the enemy radar, all the missile batteries were used against them. In reality they kept firing until they were completely destroyed.

"The enemy anti-aircraft fire was heavy. The enemy was attacked by land forces, armor and artillery, that kept firing and shelling the area. This fire strike from all directions confused the Syrians. Most of the attack was direct. Most of the batteries were destroyed by (metal) bombs. Most of the missile system included SA-6 missiles, that because of their mobility are not dug in and can be easily identified. There were also SA-2 and SA-3 missiles. The Syrians tried to use smoke screen to hide the missiles. Despite the smoke, or perhaps because of it, our pilots were able to locate all the targets. The missile system completely collapsed."

Most of the Air Force planes took part in the attack. Each made its own contribution. The mission was aided by intelligence, planning and operation teams, land and air crews, who together account for the successful outcome. The entire operation looked like a well executed symphony.

Great Relief

The greatest achievement is that our planes came back without any losses. This was a tremendous relief even to the greatest optimists among us. The missile attack will influence, according to the group commander, the future battlefield for years to come.

"The outcome of the air battle and the attack itself are unprecedented anywhere in the world," says Brig General A. "The influence of the attack will be felt for years to come. I see a parallel between the missile attack and the Six-Day War. The parallel is the innovation, the tactics and the results. This is the first time the Air Force fought against an advanced missile system, the densest and most dangerous in the world. This operation will be studied in depth for years to come."

To the End

"The first result strengthened faith in the capability of the Air Force to take on missiles. This was proof positive that the arguments of the Air Force about its capability to take on missile systems and destroy them is accurate and serious. We have proved it in an unprecedented manner. This time, unlike in the Yom Kippur War, we have made use of our capability. Last time we were not able to. Now we had the opportunity to prove it under much more difficult circumstances."

"The attack corroborated another argument, namely, that all the massive investment of the enemy in missiles will work against the enemy, since we have all the solutions."

"All the lessons we have learned will remain in our possession. We will not share them. We are still facing heavy sophisticated missile systems, and we do not know when we may have to take them on. One thing is clear: "We will even improve the present outstanding performance. Despite the huge success, we do not forget what we are facing. We will not allow ourselves to reach a state of euphoria."

Every military operation has a secret code name. If you are asked to give a name to this operation, what would you call it?

"'To the End,'" the group commander says without hesitating. "We settled our accounts with the missiles to the end."

9565

CSO: 4423/7

F-16 PILOTS' TACTICS DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR in Hebrew No 28, Jul 82 p 6

[Article by Tzvi Gutman: "The 'Magic Formula' of the F-16 Pilots"]

[Text] "I was ordered to take off on a dark night to attack terrorist positions north of Sidon, after they engaged our forces that had been landed by sea. The force had requested air support and directed our attack. We bombed, and the ground force expressed its satisfaction with our hits."

This sounds like an ordinary attack that could have been done by any airplane--Skyhawk, Phantom or Kfir. But it was done by F-16s, an aircraft designed for air superiority.

F-16--Superior in Every Task

The F-16 fulfills the thesis held by the Air Force from its very inception: A superior air-to-air aircraft will also do well in air-to-surface operations. The Air Force has always looked for an airplane that could handle all tasks, and only because of budget constraints this principle had to be compromised at various times. Air Force pilots are trained in attacking surface targets as well as in air battles.

When the developers of the F-16 became aware of its potential for air-to-surface tasks, they equipped the aircraft with all the necessary items: Attachments for a large quantity of armament and accurate laying systems.

The F-16 pilots point out the aircrafts salient feature: "If we are attacked by enemy aircraft during bombing, we can go immediately into an air battle."

This is exactly what happened to A when his formation took part in attacking the Syrian missiles. "We attacked the battery with bombs, exactly as we had done during training or in other missions. I was able to see a tremendous explosion of a nearby battery that had been hit by another formation, while my hit was seen by another pilot.

"On the way back we discovered a pair of MiG-21s coming after us. By the time I saw them another pilot fired a missile and hit one MiG.

"I took on the other MiG. He turned north toward our other formation. I tailed him and fired a missile. It went into a spin and belched smoke. I did not see a bail-out. I think it was too busy trying to hit our aircraft and did not watch its tail."

Air Superiority Was Ensured

A reveals that the thought of attacking the missiles did not trouble him more than the thought of any other attack. He relied on the high survivability of the F-16 due to its performance and small size. "I was only concerned I may not be able to discover the target or may miss it." he says.

While some of the F-16s were attacking the missiles, others were patrolling the area to ensure air superiority. This task was accomplished.

One example told by A: "When the MiGs began to arrive on the scene we discovered formations of 4 MiGs each. A short battle ensued in which one pilot downed one MiG while I downed a second one. We separated when two more MiGs appeared and tried to intercept our "Number 2." R was our "Number 4." He took them on and shot down one of them."

R shot down another MiG later in the operation. "We flew over Lake Qar'un. Number 1 discovered 4 MiGs. One MiG escaped immediately. Number 1 shot down two MiGs. I shot down the remaining MiG."

The Syrian Pilots: Combat Experience Did Not Help

These are the results. But what is the "magic formula" that produced such great success? Is this merely a "push-button war?" Says A: "There are buttons, but the man who pushes the buttons must push at the right moment... Everything happens so fast and is so complicated that you cannot replace the human brain. The technological aids help do the job programmed by man."

During the cease-fire with the Syrians, A, R and other F-16 pilots, lounging in the pilots' club, analyze the factors that have brought such great success in the battle against the Syrian enemy.

Says R: "The Syrian pilots in some instances showed greater boldness than the usual, and even tried to fight. We achieved superiority and shot them down. In such cases their boldness was their undoing."

"One should bear in mind the Syrian pilots had combat experience from some battles they fought with us in the past, and they did apply some of the things they had learned. But the gap is still wide. There are many factors that contribute to the fact that they are shot down and we come home safely."

Maintenance Crews--the "Secret" of Technical Reliability

According to the F-16 pilots, there are four components to their success: The organization of the Air Force as a fighting system; the F-16 and its systems; the technological level of the maintenance crews; the traits and training of the pilots, both commanders and ordinary pilots.

An interception or attack pilot, even the one flying the most advanced F-16 aircraft, is not his own boss. He is the spearhead of a fighting system--the Air Force. The hand that guides the spear is the control system of the force. This system sends the planes to the battlefield and provides that aerial picture that is needed for air battle or attack. The F-16 pilots are not sure the Syrian pilots were getting the same kind of service.

The pilots describe the F-16 as having superior maneuverability that permits an edge in using the armament. "We took advantage of the aircraft's features, pushing it almost to its limits, in order to quickly reach the rear of the Syrian aircraft," one of the pilots says.

The pilots stress the reliability of the F-16 and its systems, as was proven by the Air Force, inspite of the accidents that have occurred when the aircraft was used by other air forces. The F-16 pilots attribute this fact to the maintenance teams. They are full of praise: "The technical section people know the plane and its systems thoroughly and keep them in perfect condition. The close tie between the pilots and the maintenance staff, unlike in any other air force, helps prevent mishaps, by spotting potential problems and correcting them."

Maturity in Pushing Buttons

"When you buy new sophisticated weapons, smart people spend a lot of time preparing a fighting doctrine," says R. "In every scenario of limited or expanded war, air-to-air battles between us and enemy planes were discussed." Adds A: "We keep discovering new features in the aircraft all the time, which make it even more effective."

"The weapon system has shortened the duration of the air battles," R continues. "Once we used to shoot them down with guns at a range of 100-300 meters from behind. To reach such relatively short range you needed time--several minutes. The improvement of the weapon systems permits shooting them down at a longer range, and reduces the risk. We do have to make eye-contact with the enemy aircraft, which requires a mature and responsible attitude on our part, since despite the desire to down MiGs, a hasty push of the buttons can backfire."

Despite the fact that for R and most of the other pilots this was their first baptism of fire, "I was favorably impressed with their mature and responsible behavior. I was also surprised by myself. I thought I would be more excited and try to overdo it..."

The F-16 pilots say that not only the "geniuses" are assigned to the F-16s at this point. Any good pilot can make it. Indeed, one can see among them pilots who wear optic glasses (not sunglasses, the status symbol of the pilots), whose vision was impaired since they finished their training, but their capability was not lessened, and so they received their deserved promotion.

"Studies show that all the pilots did well, thanks to the lengthy training," says R. "With the help of Air Force experts we tried to simulate the future air battles and predicts how the Syrian aircraft would behave. Generally we have exaggerated in their favor."

A good share of the success, during the preparation but especially during the airbattle, R attributes to the commander and to the senior pilots. "The flight is uneventful and calm until you reach the battle scene and make contact with the enemy. From this point on it is very important to understand the air picture, both by looking at the radar and by following the instructions of the control."

Since the F-16 squadron shot down MiGs and also attacked the missile batteries, its pilots can speak with objectivity in assessing the two operations. Says R: "While the downing of many MiGs brought great satisfaction and honor, the attack on the missiles is one of the great achievement of the Air Force and will be long remembered."

9565

CSO: 4423/7

UTILIZATION OF AIRFIELDS IN LEBANON WAR DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR in Hebrew No 28, Jul 82 p 7

[Article by Yaqir Alqariv: "Ramon and 'Ovda Airfields Went into War Immediately after Being Declared Operational; Remote Negev Squadrons Rules Lebanese Sky"]

[Text] Only 3 weeks after being declared operational, the new Air Force bases in the Negev, Ramon and 'Ovda participated actively in the Peace for Galilee operation. Airplanes took off from there continually for all kinds of missions-- bombing, and support for ground forces. In the famous missile missions planes from these bases took part, "here and there" downing a few MiGs.

Having to deal with the special conditins of the yet unfinished facility, the transition to battle conditions, and the success of the stepped up effort, are related by the base commander.

"What was most characteristic of the fighting was the gradual stepping up of the activities of our squadrons. The fighting became more and more complicated each day. Most of the squadrons and the maintenance teams were reinforced with reserve people. At the time we made sure that the base did not work at full capacity. We kept sending people away to rest in order ot avoid exhaustion. We felt all the time the war was taking place right here across the fence. We received all the news and all the services which a fighting base gets. Everything was planned around the squadrons. They were given all the services so that their sorties would go smoothly, without a hitch."

Support for Ground Forces

In one of the base squadrons, during the fighting, there is great commotion. All the pilots are either in brifing or de-briefing. One of them, Captain G, is busy shaving. He says: "Our tasks until now have been bombing the missiles and the terrorist positions and giving support to the ground forces. It is very nice to hear an infantry officer tell you on the radio that you have eliminated one of his problems and helped him advance. During the fighting we were part of the force that bombed the missiles. This was a mission we have waited for for a long time and we were glad to do it. We then bombed moving terrorist forces. We hit many of their jeeps, tanks and light vehicles."

Captain Z, who flew over eastern Lebanon, referred to the SA-6 and SA-2 missiles: "Yesterday morning we flew north to bomb artillery and armor. The anti-aircraft fire in the area, as usual, was sparse."

Compliments for the Technical Section

The activities of the squadron during the fighting is summed up by its commander: "The second period, the more pressed period of the fighting, began on Monday. Since then we have been bombing the terrorists especially in Damur and we worked with the ground forces. It was encouraging to find out that precisely in working with the ground forces we were able to operate accurately. Our hits of vehicles and tanks were most precise. The data we received from the ground forces was accurate and reliable. The anti-aircraft weapons of the terrorists did not get in our way. A special compliment ought to be paid to the technical teams and the munitions. They did a superior job forgot about their daily problems and worked fast and efficiently. The munitions people gave quick effective answers to the problems that came up."

In a fighting base not only the squadrons worked around the clock. Another squadron that worked hard during the war was the administration. Its commander turned this body during the war into a well-oiled machine, with the sole purpose of helping the pilots during their missions. "As part of this operation we set up kitchens among the squadrons so that the pilots would not waste time going to the dining hall. Equipment and food for the squadrons were distributed at top speed. We have brought entertainers to the base to help relax the pilots."

An Excellent Diploma

At the Ramon base the mood is also one of satisfaction and success. "Despite the faraway battlefield," the base commander says, "we reached the far north with a sufficient number of bombs for every kind of mission. Nothing was short-changed because of our location in relation to northern squadrons. Despite the limited activity, the young pilots had an excellent opportunity to prove themselves. In all the operations the influence of the old "battle horses" was felt, the highly experienced reservists.

"Personally, I thought before the war that if we had been given another month to organize, I would have felt better. But my worries were unfounded. The newly built base worked like a charm, pilots and administrators alike. Now that the "Peace for Galilee" operation is over, I believe Ramon should be given the status of a full-fledged operation base. If the inauguration of the base 3 weeks ago was its Bar Mitzvah, now it has received its high school diploma, and its grades are excellent."

Munitions Branch Did It All

One of the squadron commanders sums up the activities of all its members: "We were favorably surprised. There is no doubt that our achievements were the results of years of work and training. Our squadron, like others, did everything.

Yes, we did bomb the Syrian missiles. We tried to have as many young pilots as possible have their first battle sortie. The different members of our squadron proved effective and worked well together. The reserve duty the old pilots do with the squadron was now fully vindicated. The technical and munitions branches performed beyond my greatest expectations. Our armament is rather complex, and the munitions people showed the highest level of performance I have ever seen. But the greatest surprise was the aircraft itself. It really proved itself."

Other squadrons also took off from Ramon to the battlefields in the north. Those planes also patrolled the sky to protect our aircraft from Syrian air attack.

A squadron second-in-command says: "I think we did good work. One of our young pilots, for example, shot down a MiG with his guns, without using even one missile. But we should bear in mind that, at least for our squadron, this was an defensive rather than an offensive war. It is always easier to defend."

9565

CSO: 4423/7

NEW IDF COMMUNICATIONS CHIEF

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Sep 82 p 8

[Text] Colonel Mordekhay Bar-Dagan was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed chief of communications and electronics in place of Brig General Tzvi Amid who is retiring from the IDF. The appointment goes into effect in September 1982. Bar-Dagan was born in Jerusalem in 1938. He graduated from Bazaq, a school for communications technicians. He joined the communications corps as a radio communications technician in 1956. In 1965 he served as communications officer in the 7th Brigade and in the Six-Day War he commanded a communications unit in an armored brigade in the Sinai and later served as a communications officer in the Jordan Valley. He was in charge of officer training in the central training base of the communications corps and served as the communications officer in the Central Command. In the Yom Kippur War he served as communications officer of an armored unit on the Golan Heights. In 1974 he was in charge of command communications in the Northern Command and was Operations Branch officer. In 1979-81 he was second-in-command to the chief of communications and electronics. Bar-Dagan took an advanced course in communications and electronics, graduated from the academy of national security and completed the special studies program for business management at Tel Aviv University. He is married and has one daughter.



9565

CSO: 4423/7

FORCES CONCLUDE MILITARY EXERCISES

GF111803 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 82

[Text] The Sultan of Oman ground forces concluded their great maneuvers that was carried out with live ammunition for 5 days. The Sultan of Omar Air Force participated in these maneuvers with various fighter planes and transport helicopters which provided direct support for the ground units that took part in the maneuvers. The Sultan of Oman armored forces and artillery took part in these maneuvers too, with excellent effectiveness. The desert battalion, Muscat battalion, western border battalion, al-Janawiyah battalion, the sultan's special forces, the gendarmerie forces, the western border security force, the coast security force, border force, the Sultan of Oman parachutist and the sultan forces engineering corps also participated in the maneuvers.

The purpose of these maneuvers was to test the mobilization efficiency of the sultan's armed forces and to bolster their fighting ability to accomplish their assigned duties in defense of the homeland, the protection of its achievements and the implementation of their duties in accordance with the plan to achieve the goals that were included in the maneuver plan.

Staff Brig Gen Hamid Sa'id al-'Ufi, commander of north Oman's brigade and commander of the units that took part in the maneuvers, stated that these maneuvers were part of a series of mobilization exercises that were implemented throughout the year, during which the fighting abilities of the sultan's armed forces in various military operations were tested. He added that these maneuvers acquire a special importance due to the great size of the participating formations of the Sultan of Oman's ground forces and other support organs and services in a mobilization training exercise to test the extent of their fighting effectiveness and the efficiency of their soldiers and officers in the implementation of their duties according to their roles and responsibilities defined in the maneuver plan. He added that these maneuvers demonstrate the extent of good cooperation and coordination among the fighting units and support organs and other services which participated in them.

It is worth noting that the day before yesterday Sultan Qabus, supreme commander of the armed forces, inspected the units that took part in the maneuvers during the exercises. He was reassured that the maneuvers were proceeding properly. He also had a look at the succession of operations and issued directives and instructions to the commanders and officers.

CSO: 4400/35

QATAR

U.S. REFUSES PLO MEETING

GF201258 Doha QNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (QNA)--The Qatari paper AL-RAYAH criticizes the repeated U.S. refusal to receive a PLO representative as a member of the Arab seven-member committee. AL-RAYAH says that this refusal is bound to raise questions among Arab circles--and particularly the Moroccan monarch, who is chairman of the Fes summit conference--which wagered all its cards on President Reagan's administration and discounted all options save the peace option.

In its editorial today AL-RAYAH asks how can President Reagan's refusal to receive a PLO representative be reconciled with the Fes summit's commitment to the legitimacy of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people and not to negotiate on its behalf--in view of the fact that the Palestinian question is the core of the problem. Is this not tantamount to a U.S. rejection in advance of the resolutions of the Fes summit and of the Arab peace plan.

The paper warns that this U.S.-Israeli rejection is seeking to disguise the ultimate objective. When President Reagan's administration says that it supports the establishment of a Palestinian entity within the framework of a union with Jordan it refuses to deal directly with the representative of the Palestinian people and stands midway between the Fes summit conference's commitment to the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and Israel's total rejection of this representative. At the right moment the U.S. magician produces from his magic hat Reagan's initiative which takes us back to autonomy which is rejected by the Arabs and the Palestinians.

CSO: 4400/38

ISRAEL HOPING TO HAMPER REAGAN-ARAB COMMITTEE TALKS

LD202248 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Commentary Husayn al-Askari]

[Excerpt] The Zionist Knesset has adopted a proposal by the enemy prime minister calling for retention of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as part of the so-called land of Israel. This decision reflects the enormity of the pressures exerted by the enemy in the face of President Reagan's plan for a settlement of the Palestine problem, which links the occupied Arab territories with Jordan. The timing of the adoption of this proposals by the Knesset is not surprising; it is a result of the evil desire of the enemy government to hamper the efforts of the Arab committee, led by the king of Morocco, which is due to meet the American President on Friday to discuss the Arab peace plan. The Israeli objective is clear: it is focusing on the rejection of President Reagan's plan because of the growing feeling in Israel that the consensus of Arab opinion has begun to take its position in an effective way in the field of presenting the Arab attitude to the international community from a new angle, which relies on speaking in one Arab voice without ignoring the initiatives presented by friends, in which the Arabs may find something that serves the justice of their demands.

Irrespective of how the enemy is trying to focus on showing a difference of opinion in the Arab view of the American President's initiative, from the premise of establishing the Israeli lie which claims that the Arabs reject everything and only deal with their desire to destroy Israel and eliminate it. Irrespective of all this, facts remain on the side of the Arabs after it had been confirmed to the international community that war and destruction are inherit properties of the enemy state, and that no state which has as one of its basic components the waging of aggression to secure its existence can talk about peace, even in its minimal level, which is the return of the Palestine people to its homeland and its own state.

It seems, however, that the evil instinct which governs the behavior of the enemy and the nature of the constitution of its aggressive psychology, motivate it to claim that the Arabs have no clear strategy and that the differences among themselves are so deep that they prevent them reaching a

unified attitude. It is natural for Zionist information in the United States to pick up this claim and embody it in an attempt to create further barriers between the American public, its administration, and the Arab point of view, because it is in Israel's interest to establish lack of understanding of the Arab attitude by the Americans. This is the secret of the campaign of casting doubts and slander waged by Israel and Zionist information quarters against the mission of the Arab committee and its meeting with the American President.

CSO: 4400/40

PRESS COMMENTS ON ARAB DELEGATION IN UNITED STATES

GF200530 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Oct 82

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial AL-NADWAH says: The important thing in the work of the [Arab seven-member] committee is the stand which Washington will adopt toward the Arab peace plan unanimously approved by the Fes summit as the minimal solution that can achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the region--the plan which the seven-member committee will discuss the U.S. President.

AL-NADWAH adds: The committee has a specific task and the result of its visit to the United States should be decisive in defining Washington's stand toward the Arab peace plan.

AL-BILAD says: Amid international developments Arab power has emerged as a decisive factor in realizing the aspirations of the peoples of the area. The Fes summit has brought about an integrated view of events. The results of the summit have shown that Arab solidarity is effective and fruitful. In the light of these international developments and the comprehensive Arab action plan generated by the Fes summit the seven-member committee begins its visit to the United States to explain the aims of the Arab plan and to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict. The challenges which the committee will face will not be easy because the committee's action will push the main Middle East issues to special levels that do not proceed in their proper channels. [sentence as heard] Through this committee an effective plan will evolve to accelerate [the solution of] the area's problems, discuss them and achieve the aspirations of the peoples of the area.

Commenting on the same topic 'UKAZ says: the forthcoming move of the seven-member committee naturally requires further consultations among Arab leaders to coordinate stands and exchange views on the strategy of future action. 'UKAZ emphasizes the importance of the talks which the committee will hold in Washington--talks which will have far-reaching consequences for the future of peace in the region.

Under the headline "Israel in the Trap of Failure" AL-JAZIRAH says: The Palestinians have shown the political and diplomatic shrewdness for which they have been known when they accepted the compromise solution proposed by the Arab delegation, namely that a Palestinian representative accompanies the delegation to the United States but he will not join the delegation when it meets with the U.S. President, while the delegation will convey to the Palestinian representative the results of its official talks with the U.S. President. With this successful compromise solution the Arab delegation has tactfully and cleverly pulled the carpet from under the feet of those who were afraid of the results of the Arab-U.S. talks on the Palestinian question as the crux of the Middle East conflict, and from under the feet of those who are overtly and covertly seeking to hamper and abort these talks.

AL-JAZIRAH adds: The more the Americans are convinced of the justice of the Arab demands and of the sincerity of the Arab quest for a peaceful option to settle the conflict with Israel, through the efforts of the Arab delegation in Washington, the chances and the possibilities of the Americans using their great ability to exercise pressure on Israel become greater, and consequently the opportunity increases for other world powers to contribute constructively in finding a just and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East conflict.

In conclusion AL-JAZIRAH says: Israel has in fact now lost part of its plan to obstruct and abort the task of the Arab delegation in Washington, thanks to the surprise announcement by the Arab delegation that there is a PLO representative among its ranks and that the delegation has agreed to meet with the U.S. President without this Palestinian representative and thanks to the PLO's intelligent agreement to this compromise solution because it is anxious for the delegation to succeed in its mission and to frustrate Israel's agents in Washington.

CSO: 4400/40

SYMPOSIUM ON IMPACT OF FOREIGN LABOR FORCE

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 31 Aug 82 pp 8-10

/Article: "The Tuesday Symposium, on Citizens and the Foreign Labor in the Kingdom: Approval of a General Strategy for Guiding Saudi Youth"/

/Excerpts/ There has been a great deal of talk about foreign labor in the kingdom.

Some people consider that it is an economic threat, others see it as a threat from the economic standpoint, and a third group considers it a real source for development and improvement in Saudi society.

There is a voice which says "Stop it, or limit its influx and flow in to the country," because of some feelings or touchiness they have toward the strong men we have brought in as a means for introducing development and improvement into our way of life.

Foreign labor, or, as Dr Husayn Mansur would like us to call it, non-Saudi labor, continues to be the topic of conversation of the society from time to time, in our jobs, on the streets, and even in our homes, when we see long lines of foreign workers performing their services, which are unending as far as we are concerned. We are in a state where we have started to experience a "glut" of soft social ease, not a glut of actual production on our part.

This social touchiness, as our colleague Yusuf al-Kuwaylit referred to it before the symposium was held, has become a great question mark in the eyes of people in charge of the policy of bringing workers in, people who are interested in the government, and even citizens themselves, when they take part in bringing more workers in.

For these reasons, today's symposium has been held on non-Saudi labor, positive and negative, and the role of various government agencies, be they directly involved in bringing in people, as with the Ministry of the Interior, for instance, or not, as with the training and education agencies and the family, which enrich the society with the needed amounts of specialists in various fields of work and production. As great as our need for doctors, engineers, or high-level leadership is, so is our need for tradesmen, peasants who are good at using equipment and drip irrigation methods and soldiers who feel the importance of their role in defending the country and its sacred values.

All these various classes make up the general group of citizens whom we need in this delicate stage of development. We aspire to have their resources and powers grow, just as much as we aspire to have large numbers of them, and this is what the government is earnestly striving to provide. For this purpose, today's symposium has taken place with His Excellency Dr Ibrahim al-'Awaji, the deputy minister of the interior, Mr Husayn Mansur, the secretary general of the Manpower Council, Mr Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Tawil, the official in charge of commercial fraud and concealment in the Ministry of Commerce, and, on behalf of the editorial board, our colleagues Nasir al-Qar'awi, the managing editor, Yusuf al-Kuwaylit, and Muhammad Rida Nasrallah.

Here is the text of the symposium:

AL-RIYAD: According to the statement Dr Ibrahim made before the symposium, in which he referred to the social sense in our Saudi society in the face of the imported press, to what extent can we assimilate this tremendous amount of imported labor, which, by virtue of its presence as a human society with diverse civilizations and cultures, is having an effect, one way or another, negative or positive? What is Dr Ibrahim al-'Awaji's opinion about that?

Dr Ibrahim: First, I would like to shed light on the basic point.

First, the labor that exists in the country is intentional--in other words, it is not an alien phenomenon, it is part of the government's plan, the economic development plan. Naturally the source of touchy feelings that exist toward it are actually--if late 1975 and beyond are compared with what existed before the second half of the last decade, there really has been a large number. However, this is also an inevitable, real and anticipated consequence of the requirements of the development programs. As a result, let us first say that from one standpoint it really is a fact, and a fact--a fact and an intentional one, whatever it might be, whether it is desirable or not. It is a desirable fact. The social sentiments are also familiar. I support our brother Yusuf's observation, social sentiment and the sensitivity that also arises from it arises from the fact that there really is a presence of large numbers of people in the country's provinces. Naturally, this fact had not previously been commonly witnessed by people, but let me state the truth: You find us hunting for negative aspects that arise from their presence, as if someone committing a crime should be of a specific nationality or of some other nationality. Of course there are large numbers of people; their distance from their own countries is not a monopoly. I do not consider that the negative features should negatively effect society if it has the beliefs, inner values and ability to protect itself and it can address itself to the presence of workers or people working here temporarily who influence it. In my opinion, one must review our method through social education and the creation of internal immunities. When this sensitivity stands out, or a crime is committed on the part of one of the two parties--as happens on the part of Saudis--we find that Saudis do not evince the same sensitivity toward what the Saudi does and they therefore express this by casting blame on the presence of foreigners. The foreigners have come in through our will to help us, and the overwhelming, most overwhelming majority is working in a disciplined manner and performing service for the country. Therefore I hope we might help one another in shedding light on the "positive features," their

positive attitudes toward these roads, these buildings, these telephone services, these medical services, this great improvement in housing and the various projects which have started to revolutionize our economic lives. These are among their positive features. However, when one of them commits a crime, why don't we discuss what the Saudis do? Does that mean that the Saudis do not kill, do not fornicate and do not steal? However, it is just in the years of the great influx, the great influx of imported labor, the last 5 or 6 years, that the minds of citizens have become aware of the fact that specific crimes occur, because they are publicized. As for the foreigners' positive attributes, they are everything that we are experiencing, and we must indeed shed light on that. Had the country not welcomed them, they would not have stayed for one moment. They came through the country's will. I believe that they must be thanked, and the majority of them indeed have made their contributions to various areas of development. The citizen must sense that, but I--in my opinion, here lies the citizen's role in understanding the phenomenon and dealing with it in an aware manner, so that he will not permit himself to be used by any elements to infringe upon the nation's interests, be they personal interests or general ones. If the issue is related to the fact that we should not cry out and should not cry out "The foreigners are increasing, the foreigners are increasing," we must realize that foreigners are a part of technology, a part of development and a part of constructions. The closer we get to an advanced stage in this massive construction--and God willing we will get there--their numbers will decrease and they will become transformed into specific elements, that is, they will start to perform specific services, and this is a fact.

Social Rapprochement and Relative Acclimatization

AL-RIYAD: In fact, there is a question connected to this answer and the first question also, and that is, to what extent will the effect and presence of imported labor be positive in the future, since this labor has come from a number of societies, from a number of civilizations, and consequently will to some extent clash with a social consciousness, that is, a consciousness which is not developed or culturally mature? To what extent will this imported labor have positive effect in the development of consciousness among the citizens?

Dr Ibrahim: What frightens me is the lack of social consciousness, because the significance of social consciousness lies in conscious dealings with foreigners. This is one aspect. The other aspect is that I do not believe that the effect you mentioned is one which should more or less lead to anxiety. I believe that the consequence of social consciousness will not be negative--rather, it will be positive, and its meaning will be to get a firm grasp on a point--before I leave the floor to you or our colleague the doctor--an important point which I would like not to miss. The labor in the country is not migrant labor--it is labor that comes by government decree in accordance with needs, works for a specific period and has its residence renewed yearly on the basis of government decree. In other words, whenever the need for it, in terms of number or type, either as regards the area it comes from or its situation as a whole, drops, and the government sees that its interests lie in a reduction or an increase, of course it is able to carry that out by carefully studied administrative decrees. In other words, this is not a disorderly situation--it is an orderly situation that is subject to a

system, and is basically subject to decree, to decrees arising from higher powers, administrative decrees to carry it out which change, are replaced and evolve in accordance with developments in requirements and rules that may arise.

Isolation and Language Are among the Most Important Reasons

AL-RIYAD: Out of this issue arises another one, which in my opinion is that the cultural issue, or its gravity and status--all foreign labor experiences isolation as a result of language, and national isolation; we have not even now reached the point where we can deal with /someone/ who brings in the same style, the same tradition and the same manner /that we share/. What I know from actual experience is what the important element in benefiting from the utmost limits of their positive traditions within Saudi society is, exacting.

Dr Mansur: In reality, first of all I would like to use a word other than "foreign labor." I prefer that the labor be considered Saudi and non-Saudi, because some of the labor that comes to us includes our Arab and Moslem brothers. If we look at the development process in past years, if we can, or if we had limited ourselves to the Saudi element in the development process, it would in reality have taken us generations, as Dr Ibrahim pointed out. We must look at the positive features of labor; the positive features of the labor are that it has shortened the period. The infrastructure has taken us two, or one and a half, plans, that is, roughly from 7 to 8 years, through which we have basic facilities which in reality we are boasting about now, rapid connections with the various countries of the world, links among the villages of the kingdom, agricultural roads, and Saudia Airlines, which have now become an object of pride in its scheduling and flight service. Non-Saudi labor is in actuality labor which has come to help, and I can say that it is guest labor and must be dealt with in a manner which is worthy of us as a Moslem society and an Arab society, which we should deal with as brothers. In actuality we have brought them in of our one will and we are prepared, if the period of any hired person in this labor force ends, there is no doubt that he will leave as soon as possible. I do not believe that there should be any fear over this labor system. In terms of bringing people in, our system is in reality different from that of many countries. The labor that comes to us is connected to specific jobs, specific contracts, and the individual employer. If it ends, in reality it ends most quickly, and the laborer does not stay on.

The Role of the Foreign Ministry

AL-RIYAD: Dr Ibrahim spoke about one aspect of the organization or one aspect of the government's view with respect to the introduction of non-Saudi labor. As Dr Husayn pointed out, the relationship between the non-Saudi worker, and the partner or the Saudis on whose behalf he has been employed, remains, and a question mark remains. On many occasions I believe that it is a joint responsibility, as well as being a direct responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce. We would like our brother Muhammad al-Tawil, a representative of the Ministry of Commerce at the symposium, to shed some light on the point regarding the relationship between Saudis and foreign workers and the extent to which the Ministry of Commerce controls its role in the field of labor in general.

Al-Tawil: In any event, His Excellency Dr Ibrahim and Dr Husayn in reality have shed light on the positive aspects of foreign labor. In actuality, the influence of labor on the domestic economy, and foreign labor, whether in reality it is our Arab brethren--and of course we look upon them in another way, not as foreigners who come and go after the completion of a project--the Ministry of Commerce has drawn attention to the danger of their influence on the domestic economy. In reality, they might have had many years' commercial experience and have engaged in many commercial activities, as opposed, in fact, to the domestic group of emerging young merchants, in the field of commercial work, who have in reality just started working in commercial activity. The Ministry of Commerce established 18 committees to combat concealment, in participation with the Ministry of the Interior. The goal in reality is to protect the domestic economy from someday--and in reality we look at it from the standpoint of our domestic economy--someday we hope to find a strong economy so that someday we will not feel that the non-Saudis are withdrawing the capital in the country. We are concerned with capital and with preserving it--domestic capital. In reality, there are conflicting ideas on profits--are foreigners permitted profits, is it considered concealment if the Saudi gives up 50 percent of the profit? Some government departments have made assumptions in this sort of area, of course also as far as ordinary laborers go, and the possibility that the employer might give him for example a percentage of the profits, or the employer might be given a percentage of the profits. The ministry has also taken this on the one hand and has considered that that in reality ordinary tradesmen such as plumbers, sweepers and so forth--it views them from a more lenient angle than foreigners who come to manage organizations and enter into building contracts for millions of riyals, which in reality the foreigners run while the Saudis have nothing to do with the matter. Here, in reality, the ministry, with the aid of the Ministry of the Interior, focusses and applies strict statutes on the matter. There is the registry for foreigners and Saudis, deportation from the country, and prohibition from the pursuit of commerce. With regard to the way we view that from the economic standpoint, and its effect on our domestic economy, as far as concealment is concerned, concealment is not just the employment of foreigners behind a Saudi front, it might also be the use of foreign capital and a Saudi facade. It might be Saudis buying, selling and entering bids while it is foreign capital itself that comes in at some point, this foreign capital which we believed was Saudi capital but is withdrawn from the country for some reason or another.

The Role and Missions of the Manpower Council

AL-RIYAD: Dr Husayn, in reality, has shifted the discussion to the subject of the Manpower Council. We know that the council was established recently. As you pointed out, it intends to set out a general strategy, and I believe that it held a meeting recently, a few days ago, on a number of essential points. Perhaps Dr Husayn could tell us what stage the council has reached regarding the ideas that have been set forth for setting out a new approach for the strategy in general, as well as its relationship to other agencies, for example its relationship to the Ministry of Planning, its relationship, for example, with the Ministry of the Interior, its relationship also with the Ministry of Commerce, and a clearer definition of its notion regarding the citizen.

Dr Husayn: In reality, the government of his majesty the king realized the importance of manpower from the beginning and for that reason established a number of committees, some of them concerned with manpower in the health sector, some concerned with the military sector, some concerned with different sectors /such as/ the communications sector. Agreement was reached on the establishment of a united labor committee which would concern itself with the subject. The results of this united labor committee were the establishment of the Technical Educational and Vocational Graining Organization, which would be concerned with the type of education which affected more than one agency, in the sense of an agency that had for instance a specific kind of study and training from which the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Health would benefit while the Ministry of Education was given the organization, the task of setting up the organization. There is another type of specialized training, for example the Passport Institute, the Male Nurses' Institute, and the Nursing School. Training in the kingdom should be, or should be coordinated, under a single umbrella, and the Manpower Council was created to be that umbrella. In reality, the Manpower Council has major objectives. One of its objectives is to be the umbrella which carries out coordination among the various training agencies. In addition, the Manpower Council was established to be concerned with manpower, as we say, from the birth certificate to the death certificate, in the sense of the Manpower Council's plans. One of these plans is to review educational programs, review training, and review matters including the commercial registry and attention to its development, including attention to manpower in the health sector, and attention to followup on the process of coordinating the opening of various institutes so that there will be no overlap. Strategies of bringing people in, in the sense of anything concerned with manpower, lie in fact under the manpower umbrella. At the last meeting, what actually happened, and the situation demands that there be two councils instead of one, the Manpower Council and the Civil Service Council--in the meeting to discuss some of the matters which I consider are joint ones, because of their importance to the two councils, a good step in reality was taken and there was actually a coalescence of efforts. I believe that in another area another meeting should be held, directly after the holidays, God willing, which the two councils will attend: the Manpower Council at present is not doing anything by itself, in the sense that if there is a need to bring workers in, there is no doubt that the people who have the most familiarity with bringing workers in are the Ministries of the Interior and Labor, and that should be in coordination with them. We are a planning agency coordinating with bodies and we have no desire, or the agency has no desire, in fact, by virtue of its establishment, it is concerned not with execution but rather with the planning process. There is no doubt that the Ministry of the Interior welcomes cooperation in a specific area, and there is also cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce in a specific field, and so on.

Dr Ibrahim: In actuality, I, as an official of the Ministry of Interior system, the problem or the phenomenon is truly serious and sensitive as far as development is concerned, since the ministry is responsible for adopting very many decisions on labor for development. It bears even more responsibility with respect to negative features than it is presented with positive aspects. I also as an official have had contacts and have participated with many officials in the Ministries of Labor and Commerce or the ministries concerned with education in the realm of manpower for development. In reality, I consider the establishment of a higher

manpower council to have been a very major organizational step, an important one in the history of management, no matter how it might have faced, at the beginning faced difficulties in formation, effectiveness, and the view of other organizations toward it and the extent of dealings with it. In my opinion it was a great step, because its responsibility, as the doctor pointed out, is really to plan for domestic and non-domestic manpower in the country. Domestic basically means meeting requirements in the best way, but frankly in the sense that officials who are involved in terms of execution and labor planning aspects in the country should meet and set out a common plan through a dynamic, coordinated technical agency. In my opinion it is a source of reassurance for me as a citizen and for me as an official because in reality it is a major, important step, and I would like to add a word, in fact, which is that there is no doubt that the Manpower Council, that bringing workers in is done not because of the government's desire to bring people in per se but for the sake of performance--so that the people coming in, or non-Saudis, will perform jobs which it is not in the country's power to provide the necessary labor for. If the necessary labor had been available, there would not have been these many non-Saudis with their negative and positive features. One of the most important duties of the Manpower Council, because it is an attempt gradually to develop Saudi personnel to undertake to perform all the tasks required of them, now lies in studying the issue. In order that the Manpower Council not end up alone in its views, it is the goal of the Manpower Council that it will not--in any case, we have made a study, or set out the conditions for a preliminary study, which we have sent to 11 bodies in the kingdom to receive their views just on the broad outlines of the work of the study, so that the study will be integrated. This shows that there is a need to know about everything but just to be in touch with the ideas that come to it and to contribute to every evaluation as far as possible.

Activities of the Former Deputies' Labor Committee

AL-RIYAD: I believe that Dr Ibrahim was previously a chairman of the deputies' committee concerned with the organization of labor. What about the results of the committee's activities?

Dr Ibrahim: In reality, as the doctor knows from the past, because of the large number of committees which have participated in the labor issue, it has become hard for me, because of the proliferation of committees, but I do believe that all of these activities have contributed and have resulted in a crystallization of the situation, because we have always said, How can we do labor planning when everyone is thinking in his own way? Let officials meet with the people responsible for education and the people responsible for training. I believe that that is an important organizational plan. I consider it an organizational plan, and it is possible for people to keep the committee on.

AL-RIYAD: When can we expect execution to begin, or a start on the execution stage, as far as general manpower strategy in the council goes?

Dr Husayn Mansur: What strategy?

Youth Guidance

The programs that have been proposed within the manpower strategy. That is, when will their actual execution begin?

Dr Husayn: Brother Nasir, we have 15 studies and they are all now underway.

AL-RIYAD: Concerning what? What fields do they deal with?

Dr Husayn: In actuality, training and other fields which I may perhaps not all remember now. There actually is an important study, and it is now underway, a study on supply and demand, then there is another study which is new of its kind, a study on the use of information and expanded communications in human resources development in the kingdom. This study is steadfastly concerned with the information process. For example, a student has not passed preparatory school, his father does not fully know how to guide him, we start by conveying all the information on guiding him. We start by conveying the information to the Saudi family. We see /the father/ and we tell him "Your son has not passed in general education--that does not mean that your son is not a success but rather that he might succeed in different fields." Generally, it presents the fact that there is such-and-such an institute, that is, for the conveyance of information.

In reality, we are now aiming in this study at conveying knowledge, or conveying information, to the family, to help it guide its children in the necessary manner of the manner that is appropriate for them. I cannot say that general education is better or that vocational training is better, but every person in this world has orientations and has specific things. A person's son might be oriented toward such-and-such or be oriented toward another area. I believe that our goal in the study is not to concentrate on guiding one's son into such-and-such practical areas. Rather, we try to explain matters to the father, explain to him that there might be benefits in this course of study for his son, who has not been successful in his studies.

A Countdown for Imported Labor

AL-RIYAD: The issue is also to limit labor in the kingdom. I believe that limitations have started, to be put on labor, or that the countdown in regard to labor has begun as the result of the integration of many of the main projects in the kingdom, and that that has greatly alleviated the importation of labor. In addition there is for example the fact that Arab labor exists and is able to assimilate the large complex projects in the Gulf countries, especially the labor from North Africa, Algeria and Morocco, which seems to combine Arab interests and actual vocational accreditation or accreditation for big projects. Is there coordinated planning among Arabs so that there will actually be a capable force that can manage these projects or assume these projects in the future? Has the kingdom, in its plans, also given attention to getting domestic manpower and companies to take charge of this sort of big project?

Dr Husayn: In actuality, the talk of limiting or the talk of reducing I believe might be replaced by the word "guidance." Guidance, the word guidance, it seems

to me, of manpower in the kingdom, will fulfill the purpose. We are studying manpower in the kingdom from all its aspects, and the guidance will be done from all standpoints. More productive workers might be brought in to replace workers who are less productive. We guide labor and even in the systems that exist now, if for example in the system of bringing people in, the Ministry of the Interior considers, or it is really difficult, to move a worker from town to town, and it takes longer on the road, that will help the guidance process, the process of obtaining the greatest benefits from the non-Saudi labor that is present in the country, be it Arab or non-Arab. I believe the issue here, projects even in the Arab countries, need to bring in non-Arabs. We are now in reality concerned to bring them in, and there is no doubt that we are part of the Arab nation and the Islamic nation. We are now trying as far as possible to obtain the best labor, as far as possible. We welcome Arab labor, without a doubt; look at the market, roughly, if you look you will see that most of the people here are Arabs and Moslems, but that does not mean we should put limits on bringing in other labor, because there is technology and there are other things that do not exist in Arab countries. The process, as I told you at the outset, is under study, so that labor may be guided, and whatever is best for this country will be followed, God willing.

Dr al-'Awaji: I actually have a point, which is not an answer but a supplementary observation. I believe that the point that our brother Yusuf raised, when we talk about the effects of the development plans and development programs, we are not thinking about their projects, services and material conclusions, but believe me if I observe the administrative development, the development of administration, administration, in reality, if one refers to Western civilization and the industrial resurgence in the West, part of whose consequences we are experiencing now, there is no doubt that its basis was administration. Industrial administration, frankly, is the secret of progress, because it is that which means the best use of the means of production. Naturally until very recently we had experience, which could not be seen, let me show you that the results of development in the projects, and so on and so forth, but there are positive aspects which I have dealt with. I cannot talk about the other men in the Arab nation because in reality I have not made a study in which I can talk about them, but in the recent period better resources and better capabilities have manifested themselves in Saudi organizations and Saudi students. I believe that this is one possibility that has not been developed. That is, our brother Muhammad in the Ministry of Commerce can say, if one makes a comparison between now and 7 years ago, the level of the Saudi merchant, Saudi commerce used to import official agents to the kingdom, who were agents for Arab countries, or some Arab countries; they took a commission but now we find that the percentage of Saudi merchants at international fairs is greater than the percentage of other Arabs, in the sense that the Saudi merchants are changing; they have started to learn how to go to factories.

The same is true with regard to administration, project administration, the use of technology. This is an important point. I can say that there has been progress in the kingdom which the ordinary citizen will not notice--certainly the ordinary citizen will not notice it, but people who follow and observe will find that there has been great development. I remember that there was much distress when some people left their homes and went to work for the private sector. The fact is that people who knew realized that the opposite of this inevitable development was true--

they exercised their expertise, their awareness and their culture and managed to create a new generation in the field of industry and trade. This is an essential point and it applies to the kingdom. Of course aware labor is not concerned with nationality and does not wonder whether it might be Arab. You find that with it the criterion becomes a national one, not a religious one. The criterion is the worker's interests and his profits. However, the important thing is that he is more aware.

I just wanted not to let this point get by.

Amending the Curricula

AL-RIYAD: A question which is actually a traditional one: it has happened more than once that amendments have been made in the curricula in education in the specific training curricula of traditional education. We have a group of projects which have been carried out and require maintenance, or require people to manage them, and there are future projects also which this agency will operate. I do not know what has happened on this issue and the subject of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Interior.

Dr Ibrahim: This is one of the most important points the Manpower Council is dealing with, because it brings together more than one body concerned with training and education. My own opinion is one thing, and I will leave it to the doctor to tell you what steps have been taken in this regard. There is a missing link. We must subject the curricula, the teaching methods and the areas of education to the requirements of development. By that I mean that we are now opening university education up without restrictions to everyone who wants it; university education is connected to self-esteem and social status. Everyone wants to be a university graduate, everyone wants to have a master's degree, everyone wants to become a PhD. and everyone wants to become a manager. However, if we involve ourselves seriously and get just the people who are needed to go into specific specializations, in accordance with specific needs, we will be prepared to snatch them up and guide them into specialized areas.

AL-RIYAD: There is a model experiment that actually existed in the Ministry of Education 12 years ago, and still exists. These are the new intermediary courses which can combine shops and traditional curricula. They have not yet developed but have remained as they were when they started.

Dr Mansur: In reality, the subject, as I said at the beginning--full attention is being given to the process of studying the curricula that now exist and developing educational curricula to keep abreast of our resurgence. The process is not one of introducing "scientific study" or letting people carry out the big tasks they are carrying out, which might exist to make people enthusiastic or pave the way for people to see what work is or try out the work and to help them. Rather, all they have been involved in here is that there really are studies--I don't want to anticipate events, but there are studies that will take place, through cooperation among the Ministry of Education and the other ministries concerned, to review this issue, and the Manpower Council will decide on the basis of the results the studies come up with.

Dr al-'Awaji: The third 5-year plan has stipulated--in an article on strategy it has stipulated that it is necessary to review the curricula. That now has been done, and work on it is starting. The issue is complex and is not simple. It has a relationship to social aspects and desires. It is not as simple as some people think--perhaps, in fact, it really needs phased, rather than sudden, development.

In reality, the Manpower Council is totally aware that there is a limited number of Saudis and that the best use must be made of them through care and careful study. People must select and observe what influential factors will help in the optimum use or optimum exploitation of these young people. There now are long discussions and heated discussions, discussions which in reality are founded on studies; some of them are discussions that are raised and studies are founded on them, lest a decision be taken against them. The council makes a full evaluation that the decision that is issued must really be carefully studied, lest we waste the resources which in reality are the basis of everything.

AL-RIYAD: Has it been proved in practice that big plants, such as the city of al-Jubayl, can do without the volume of labor brought in by means of new modern technology, with the smallest possible numbers?

Dr Mansur: That is possible. Let me give you an example. When Aramco started, some time ago, it started with a greater labor force, and its labor force declined--bear in mind that the oil production was increasing. Why this phenomenon? This phenomenon might be explained by the fact that the process of technology and the process of mechanization were going on. Production could have been 2 million a day when the labor force was large.

In reality, the process is not one of production or volume; rather, as Dr Ibrahim was so gracious as to state, it is a process of management. If management is good, it is possible to use more elements, and if production is greater or smaller numbers, the greater numbers result from poor administration. I believe that the emphasis in the fourth plan must actually be made on the administrative aspects, and that, in reality, will give a share, or more aptly emphasis, to the council, because I believe, as Dr Ibrahim has been so gracious as to state, that has happened now in the discussion--management is very important and emphasis must be placed on it to give better results.

The Phase Following the Saudization of Commerce

AL-RIYAD: Brother Muhammad, following the Ministry of Commerce's campaign to Saudize commerce, what will the ministry's role following the phase of what is called Saudization be in evaluating the labor situation? Will it be to unearth different types of violations? What also will be its contribution in the other sectors, in order to correct some negative examples, be they Saudi or non-Saudi?

Al-Tawil: In reality, credit for the Saudizing commerce goes to the Ministry of the Interior and the plan the Ministry of the Interior has adopted in this regard. In actuality, in all the governors' offices in the provinces, committees have been formed by name of committees to prevent foreigners from engaging in commerce. These have been made up of a number of government entities, including the Ministry

of Commerce. What happened, following the intensified campaigns on the committees' part to prevent foreigners from engaging in trade, was that foreigners would go out by the door and get into trade through the window, and that, in reality, became concealment. Here it has multiplied dozens of times over and we have become plagued by hundreds of cases of concealment. In fact, as a result of consultation between the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of the Interior, just three committees were created between 1967 and 1978. In 1978, in consultation with the Ministry of the Interior, a committee was established for each branch in the Ministry of Commerce, in consultation with the Ministry of the Interior, known as committees to combat concealment. In the case of the villages and remote areas where there are no Ministry of Commerce branches, there is an instruction from his highness the minister of the interior according to which the officer of the governor and the police are assigned to among other things in reality adopt specific measures regarding foreigners present in shops who are suspected of concealment by removing them from the shops and preventing them from being active in commercial activity, for fear that they might be engaged in concealment. With respect to the 18 committees, now, the Ministry is still opening a branch for itself in which it will form a committee to combat concealment. Of course, the committee is made up of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of the Interior, the representative of the governor's office in the province. Naturally we will supply them with information, although unfortunately a statute on concealment has not been issued. Although a specific penalty has already been stipulated for concealment, the person committing the concealment himself, while not being punished as a result of his concealment, is in reality punished in accordance with other articles, because when a foreigner commits concealment he does so in violation of the principle of his residence, meaning that he is engaged in trade. Saudis are in violation, for example, of Article 60 for helping foreigners engage in this activity. I believe that Article 60 of the residence statute, imprisonment for 3 to 6 months, will guarantee that foreigners and Saudis are deterred from engaging in concealment, and in addition Saudis are prohibited from being registered in the commercial register.

In the city of Riyadh, I can remember that there have been 170 cases so far in which concealment has been proved. That does not mean cases--they just consist of a Saudi partner and a foreign partner. Cases could include 35 people concealing great numbers. So far the cases in which concealment has been proved have come to 170 and innocence was established in about 75 cases, from 1980 to now. This is as far as the city of Riyadh goes. As far as the city of Jiddah goes, the figure comes close to that, and the Eastern Province. Of course, the other provinces are provinces where the size is smaller and they are in reality smaller in terms of concealment. Cases of concealment in other provinces might not inflict the damage on the economy that they inflict for example on Riyadh and Jiddah, because there might be a grocery shop /or/ a man might have the job of a small merchant, while in Riyadh, Jiddah and the Eastern Province there are contracting activities that come to millions on millions--building contracting, government projects, companies, jewelry dealers.

Rectifying the Condition of Foreign Labor

AL-RIYAD: What is the extent of your contribution to rectifying the conditions of much of the foreign labor through the concealment committee and its campaign?

Al-Tawil: Of course the Ministry of Commerce has in reality felt even that the Saudis themselves are distressed by merchants. They have started to sense that non-Saudis are distressed by them in the field of trade and they have in reality started to get exasperated, complain to the ministry, on the grounds that people were distressing them, and complain about people committing concealment. What, however, is proof of concealment? The Saudis do not know it, because they can find only foreigners around them. Therefore the Ministry of Commerce, with all the powers it actually has and everything it can do to unearth operations, has therefore issued a number of decrees, among them one where if the committee complains about a foreigner's property, the foreigner is sent out of the country. If it does not have sufficient proof to send the foreigner out of the country or imprison him, the existence of circumstantial evidence and decisive proof, the committees to combat concealment do not wait for frank confessions from the foreigner or Saudi, or the existence in fact of a written agreement or documents--it is enough that there be circumstantial evidence and proof, and the proof which in fact proves the concealment is in reality the foreigner's conduct, the conduct of the person who owns the shop in the Saudi's shop. This is proof of concealment. For example, withdrawals from banks: in much of the circumstantial evidence, the committee has found that the foreigner has the right to make withdrawals from the Saudi organization's account, but the Saudi does not have the right to make withdrawals, as is the case with some non-Saudis, on grounds that he gives the non-Saudi, gives the Saudi 5 percent of the profits--we have found that the non-Saudi, that is, his Saudi guarantor, is not let in on all projects and work, so that he will not be paid 5 percent for all his work, and thus the concealment is discovered, because the Saudi is ignorant of his organization's activities and projects, because he has not been let in on them as far as the budgets go either.

AL-RIYAD: Do the banks cooperate with you in disclosing accounts, Brother Muhammad?

Al-Tawil: In reality, the banks cooperate with us through their source, which is the Monetary Authority and the Ministry of Finance.

AL-RIYADH: What about the social insurance? To what extent do the same manner of compensations and salaries exist for foreign labor and foreign workers that are made available to domestic workers?

Dr al-'Awaji: My information on the social insurance system is that it is a very advanced system, in the sense that it is actually exemplary, because it gives workers, whether Saudi or non-Saudi, very important guarantees. I understand that the effects of this have started to appear, of course, and we read a great deal about the payment of salaries now, of course, but I believe that even the insurance system must go through a test period, because it was issued, or applied, at a stage when there was an onslaught of labor and what is new, everything that is new, takes time.

AL-RIYAD: In the country now, for example, there is training for specialized, rare activities, for computers and so forth. The problem is that these groups always study in intermediate institutes or intermediate faculties, and after their return they clash with the civil service system, prompting many of the people whom the government has qualified to take charge of its projects to go into the private sector.

Dr Ibrahim: We have dealt with this in the Ministry of the Interior and have set up a 3-year course for a diploma for military personnel, when the personnel become lieutenants and get benefits, which are known as military persons' benefits, although they work in technical activities. In this case, they will serve for the period the project requires, because they are military persons and are compelled to serve. Consequently, the benefits they enjoy in many cases are also better than if they had started on a particular ladder! This is one remedy. There is now a remedy where the Service Bureau is looking into people through recategorization operations and reviewing the subject.

I have noticed that there is a tendency to make technical positions subject to the nature /of the work/ in terms of salary more than /others/ that are on a par with them in terms of rank. I believe this is the current trend.

AL-RIYAD: But isn't this being done slowly, Doctor?

In one ministry, one of its provisions with the company that is carrying out projects for it is that the company train no fewer than 12 to 18 young Saudis in computers. It actually trained them and advanced them, and then they clashed with the Service Bureau for 9 months, between the bureau and the ministry, over the method of education. What happened was that at the end the ministry sent them to other bodies and let them go. That is also a loss for the government.

Dr Mansur: In reality, the training study will include a study of the benefits given to graduates in order to make them equal in terms of relative importance to the various ministries and departments. I believe that this point is relevant, and I say that it has been included in the study. Since the secretariat did not make use of and move into its new building until about 3 months ago, God willing you will bear the word "under study" from me. However, God willing, our studies will be prompt, and we now have a specific number of studies that are ready and prepared so that decisions may be taken and, God willing, various decisions will be taken with regard to them.

Dr Ibrahim: I would like it to be taken into account, by way of measurement, that a person who has a diploma, a long training period of specialization in a technical field, is now more important to the real interests of the country than a person with a university degree. That does not mean that university graduates are not useful. They might be very useful. Rather, by university study I mean study with a course programmed where a person deals with the curricula according to time. Technical specialization, however, is specialization that requires devotion, commitment, effort and so forth. That is being encouraged, and people, instead of heading to universities in fields of specialization the country might not need, should also go into technical specializations and studies at the same rate. I believe that the issue of incentives and benefits must exist and that we must not restrict ourselves, when one period of study is 4 years and another is 7, to /asking/ which of them is more pressing, more sensitive and more important. People are now confused on where to go after general secondary and after meeting requirements. One person continues after secondary school, while another one says "I will go to a specialized institute and get a salary equal to that of a university graduate;

I intend to go to secondary school and specialize after 2 years and obtain a certificate that is equivalent to a university diploma." These are the incentives.

Particular Features of Saudi Society

AL-RIYAD: To what extent can the particular features of Saudi society be stable and developed at the same time, while in reality they are suffering from two goals, or two divergent aspects? The first is that there are fears that the particular features of Saudi society will be eroded by this tremendous volume of labor that has come in and at the same time there may perhaps by virtue of the presence of this labor and also by virtue of the country's opening up--since the country has become like the world, something resembling a great village where there are people ranging from Indians to Chinese to Americans, that is, all the civilized and developed nationalities--to what extent is it possible to hold onto the particular characteristics of our Saudi society and at the same time develop it (naturally we should not leave it rigid and fixed) in the face of these two divergent aspects?

Dr al-'Awaji: First, if societies, in their relationships with one another, have become circles, you will find that Saudi Arab society is a small circle within concentric circles. The circle immediately beyond is the circle of Arab and Islamic society. The next circle is that of similar societies. Of course, in my opinion, Saudi Arab society can retain its intrinsic particular features. The greater and broader first of all the social consciousness is, and also the participation in the field of construction and the field of focussing its interests, so that it knows exactly what these interests mean, the more, and therefore the greater, will be the shield that will separate it from the second or the third circle, which is the level of the last of the societies where the circle is close to it, and the greater the effect on the circle surrounding it, the Arab circle and the Islamic circle, will be. I believe that if we adopt this relationship in some form and draw it up as a strategy, bring in labor in accordance with this notion, and actually start to deepen consciousness and the exercise of responsibility and at the same time try to program imported labor by restricting its numbers as much as possible to labor which does not essentially differ in terms of morality, notions and aspirations, that is my opinion, and it could be an academic response, but in my opinion this could be one of the elements which we must look at and on which expanded discussion must take place.

Dr Husayn: In reality if the process of development and the process of bringing people in occurred in a society other than Saudi society, its effect would in reality be more negative.

We in our religion have a great foundation, like a pillar. No matter how far away we go, we return to it. The force of belonging and faith draws us to it. What I believe is that the great intermixture between Saudis and non-Saudis has caused the former to gain experience and has accelerated our young people's acquisition of expertise that young people actually had been lacking. For example, if you look at America, on the other hand, they have acquired the experience that Saudi young people have acquired, and what is happening now is that Saudi youths have benefitted from the considerable intermixture. However, I hope that we will continue to preserve the purity of our religion and the purity of our customs

as a people who are hosting others. Some people might speak ill of some of the foreigners present in our country; I hope that they will not forget that these foreigners are our guests, the guests of our hospitable people, and we must always treat them as long as they are in our country as guests with the Islamic morality and the Arab morality on which we have been raised, in the sense that we must always bear and treat them as guests and their presence here among us should not be viewed as undesirable. If it is undesirable, we should tell them goodbye and they should go. My hope always is, and I wish, that each of us will actually view this guest as a personal guest of each of us, so that we can say that these are our customs. If we deviate from that I believe that that will be a deviation from our customs and traditions, and what our religion and pure Islamic law have urged upon us.

11887

CSO: 4404/714

REORGANIZATION OF MONETARY SYSTEM CALLED FOR

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 246, 9 Aug 82 p 38

[Text] Economic chaos is contrary to the interest of any developing state. The most dangerous kind of chaos involves manipulating money, because of money's involvement with the social relations which link various elements of the economic system.

The collapse of the al-Rajihi al-Sughra Company based in al-Dammam in Saudi Arabia came as the result of a long accumulation of "fiscal chaos" in the sphere of exchanging money and converting it to foreign currency. This collapse justified again the validity of what senior Saudi economists have been calling for again and again, and that is the necessity of having the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency [SAMA], which plays the role of the central bank in the Kingdom, intervene in the organization of the fiscal side of private sector activities, especially the activities of "quasi-banks" in Saudi Arabia which are directed primarily at converting money to gold and foreign currencies.

This reorganization has two other justifications. A gigantic organization, al-Rajihi al-Kubra Company based in Jiddah, is a private sector organization related to al-Rajihi al-Sughra Company, which fell victim to disorganization and collapse. Many people thought that the family link was enough to protect the third party, and they expected al-Rajihi al-Kubra to protect al-Rajihi al-Sughra from collapse. However, the principles and bases of the capitalist system do not accept family ties as reasonable methods in economic activity. Naturally the larger company did not come forward to offer aid to the smaller company to any greater extent than any other financial organization in the country, especially since such aid is one of the responsibilities of the central bank alone and is not a function of relatives.

The second justification is to have the Saudi agency assume its complete role in Saudi Arabia just as any other central bank, since the Kingdom is a basic part of a new rank which brings together the states of the Peninsula and the Gulf in a framework of cooperation and coordination. This structure is aimed at a gradual trend toward creating a standardized Arab dinar. This means creating a standardized monetary unit in the countries of this order of cooperation and coordination. It is impossible to continue in this effort unless the fiscal life in the countries of the Peninsula and the Gulf moves, either all at once or gradually, toward the intervention level attained by

by the central banks in all of the developed states which have adopted capitalism.

Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia is a developing state, and each developing state has a legitimate right to be on guard against international markets and also has a legitimate duty to protect its citizens from the effects of these markets. It may be right to blame 'Abdallah al-Rajihi, owner of the al-Sughra Company, for his widespread and corrupt fiscal activities. However, the speed with which the international interests which had dealt with the company rushed to recover their debts by appropriating real estate owned by al-Rajihi in al-Dammam, Riyadh and Jiddah which he had offered to back his fiscal sheet and as collateral for his debts toward others differs very little from the speed with which Britain occupied Egypt in the last century when Egypt failed to pay its debts. Al-Rajihi's property in Saudi Arabia is Arab property, and the holders of his foreign debts have no right to own this property in exchange for bad debts. This Saudi citizen would not have been able to obtain very much from Belgium or Britain if the monetary gambling in which he became immersed had gone in his favor, rather than against him.

Thus, the activities of the private sector must be restricted without making this restriction serve foreign interests rather than the interest of the citizens, no matter how much they have erred!

7587

CSO: 4404/641

COMMENTATOR VIEWS GROWING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

LD161518 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 82

[Political analysis by Hashim Abduh Hashim]

[Text] Despite Israel's blustering, despite its insistence on pursuing the principle of expansion at the expense of the Arabs, despite the Zionists' resort to barbaric methods against those vested with the legitimate rights, despite Israel's continuous procrastinations and failure to heed the various UN resolutions and despite Israel's continued occupation of the land of others, Israel will have to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories either peacefully or through war and will have to recognize the legitimate Palestinian rights sooner or later and consequently the establishment of Palestine will become an established fact at some stage of the work for the restoration of normal conditions in the region.

The time when the Israeli stands used to meet with full sympathy from the international community has now gone for good. This is firstly because the Arab nation has changed its strategy in dealing with the issue and replaced the language of slogans that used to lead to impractical extremist stands by a language of peace which has met with a great response and understanding.

Secondly, the United States has come to realize lately that to support Israel with no consideration for the rights of others serves neither it nor the cause of peace in the region and consequently has amended its prejudiced stands and recognized the legitimate rights of the Palestine people. It is possible to achieve even more than this within the framework of a policy of mutual understanding and rapprochement between the two sides through the forthcoming visit of the Arab delegation to Washington shortly.

Thirdly, the international community has come to realize that the Israelis are not serious in seeking peace and that to them stability in the region means the attainment of military and strategic superiority reaching the boundaries of domination over the countries and peoples of the region. This noticeable change in policies and methods is clearly evident in the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council.

Fourthly, the countries of Western Europe have come to realize the true intentions of Israel and have become aware of the nature of the problems stemming from Europe's full sponsoring of Israel's views and ambitions and so they have made a radical change in their stands and resolutions. Thus, we saw Yasir 'Arafat become a man of peace sought by the responsible officials in Italy, Greece and France with whom he exchanged views, and we saw them recognize the full rights of the Palestine people to security, freedom, independence and stability.

Perhaps the last stand which affirms the emergence of this new understanding can be found in the statement issued by the European Parliament yesterday expressing solidarity with the Palestine people in their ordeal and supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

This all means that the Arabs hold in their hands all the cards of peace, now that Israel has been left out of the circle of international interest and has become an outcast and an entity living on the destruction of others and on the creation of climates of instability.

The future certainly favors balanced Arab moves under the umbrella of these available conditions which are extremely crucial and sensitive. It is essential that we make full use of them in a manner which will serve the cause of this nation and restore to it all its rights.

CSO: 4400/35

COUNCIL DISCUSSES STATUS OF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 2 Aug 82 p 16

[Article by 'Abdallah al-'Asimi: "Mecca [Umm al-Qura] University Council Discusses Status of Students in America and Britain"]

[Text] At 10 yesterday morning, Sunday, all of the members of Mecca University's council met under the chairmanship of University trustee Dr Rashid al-Rajih. The secretary-general of the university and the deans of the colleges and independent institutes attended. Discussions centered on the status of university students sent for higher studies in American and British universities. The meeting lasted for 5 hours, as the council had been directed to meet with the students themselves to determine the nature of the problems which they face and to overcome the difficulties which they encounter in their studies.

After sunset yesterday the council continued its meetings with the students. Each student reviewed the problems which he had faced during his studies. The university's director of studies abroad attended the meeting. The most important issues dealt with concerned the general status of the students in these two countries. Resolutions were adopted in connection with these subjects:

- 1) The reasons leading to a change in specialization by some students and the need to treat this subject according to the requirements of the public interest and future planning for Mecca University.
- 2) Looking into extending the period of study, in accordance with reports submitted to the Mecca University Council by the relevant departments, the Office of Studies Abroad, and the educational affiliates, in accordance with the views of the supervisors of student communications with reference to granting extensions or a change of specialization only to the most limited extent.
- 3) Appointing someone to follow the educational status of the students constantly, and requiring that regular reports for each academic subject be submitted to the colleges by the university which the student is attending, in coordination with the educational affiliates.
- 4) Facilitating fiscal payments, reimbursements and stipends, in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education.

- 5) Trying to ensure that problems of students are solved as quickly as possible so that the student can devote himself to his studies.
- 6) Considering a stipend for students and their families in light of provisions in the special regulations in that area.
- 7) Stressing the need to consult the department concerned in the University if a student wishes to transfer from one university to another or change specialization, while obtaining the University's prior approval of the choice of the school at which the student will continue his education.
- 8) When the students are visiting Saudi Arabia, they should contact the departments by which they were sent in order to submit a detailed report of their status. This would enable the department to catch errors or problems at an early stage.
- 9) Review by the university of the report submitted by the authorized committee on students sent to America, in order to establish guidelines and bases for solving their problems and attempting to facilitate the pursuit of their studies from the moment they arrive at the schools where they will be studying.
- 10) Preparing students with religious, educational and cultural background before their departure, and supplying them with adequate information about the area to which they have been sent. This should be done by the Office of Studies Abroad, so that they are well-informed before applying to any university.
- 11) Requiring enrollment at well-known and accepted schools.

In addition, the deans and the secretary-general, under the chairmanship of the trustee of the university, spoke with the students in a brotherly spirit in an atmosphere of love and understanding, so that each student would feel at ease and would discuss things requiring explanations or solutions with his university or his department.

These meetings will be held on a regular basis to pursue their suggestions and ideas, in accordance with the directives of Shaykh Hasan ibn 'Abdallah Al al-Shaykh, minister of higher education, who is sparing no effort to take an interest in and follow all matters involving students abroad.

The meeting ended at 10 last night, when all were served dinner.

7587

CSO: 4404/641

BRIEFS

ITALIAN GRANT--Khartoum, Sept 25 (SUNA)--The Italian Government has agreed to offer Sudan a forty million dollar grant to finance some projects in the field of energy, water and health besides conducting feasibility studies on fishery projects, SUNA learned. The Italian Government has also agreed to extend Sudan a loan of \$20 million to bolster the balance of payments. The loan which would be used for the import of commodities from Italy, is redeemable in 13 years with a two-year period of grace at an interest rate of 2-1/2 percent. The two agreements were signed during the meetings of the Sudanese-Italian joint Ministerial Committee held in Rome, Italy, Sept. 13-15. The next meeting of the joint Ministerial Committee will be held here next March. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 25 Sep 82 p 1]

REPUBLICAN DECREES--Khartoum, Sept 29 (SUNA)--President Numayri yesterday decreed the formation of the Institute of Political and Strategic Studies to replace the Institute of Socialist Studies and Research, which was canceled by the new decree. The new institute bears the task of conducting and publishing strategic and political studies and research, issuing of magazines, periodicals and other printed matters, and holding conferences and symposia in pursuit of its defined aims, and establishing and administering political libraries. Al-Rashid Al-Tahir Bakr was appointed chairman of the board of the institute which includes eleven other members. Dr Isma'il al-Hajj'Musa was appointed director of the institute and editor in chief of the Political and Strategic Studies Magazine which will be issued by the institute. President Numayri has also decreed the formation of an organization affiliate to the SSU Central Committee under the name of the National Council for Friendship, Solidarity and Peace. The decree cancels the former council which carried the same name. The new council is assigned to lead and organize the Sudanese movement for peace and Afro-Asian Solidarity, consolidate peaceful coexistence, lead and organize Sudanese friendship societies with other countries, take part in the Islamic revival and renovation and to help public efforts for political and economic integration with Egypt. The membership of the new council was formed of 29 appointed persons plus representatives from the Regular Forces, trade unions and political sectoral organizations. Dr Ahmed al-Sayyid Hamad kept his post as chairman of the Council and Dr Yusuf Bushran remained as the secretary general. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 29 Sep 82 p 1]

CSO: 4500/13

VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS VIEWED

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] Vocational training plays a prominent role in the national economy, and the importance of this role is projected in the work of the technical person who deals directly with established principles, the rules of which are both practical and theoretical. In order to achieve his task, the technical person has to perform well the duties entrusted to him in relation to complicated technologies. Vocational training should therefore go side-by-side with technological development, in order to fulfill the requirements of such development, especially in terms of quality.

Has the Ministry of education, so far, been able to prepare technical personnel from its institutes and its industrial and commercial schools? We will try to answer this question by studying the real situation of vocational training in the country and by discussing the reports submitted to the seminar of vocational training held in Damascus between 15 and 18 August, and by learning the views of the participants in this seminar.

The Importance of Vocational Training

Manpower, whether in quality or quantity, is measured by the knowledge, experience, and training possessed by its members and is the scientific basis for exploiting available resources in a country and strengthening its socialist principles. Accordingly, and in order to fulfill the requirements of economic development plans, it is essential to provide standards of work in various fields and have a group of conscientious workers. For this reason, the government has paid great attention to this matter since the 8 March revolution, with the result of opening new technical institutes and schools including industrial, trade and agricultural schools. The number of existing and newly opened industrial schools in the country is 76 as a result of the recent legislative decree to open 50 technical schools in various governorates of the country.

There are 30 trade schools, 12 intermediate institutes, 4 art schools for women, and 2 commercial institutes for banking.

What is the quality and composition of these institutes as far as the students are concerned?

The Main Problems

Reports submitted to the seminar of vocational training show that the most difficult problem facing technical training in our schools is the selection of students. The interest of students in general education, in the past, has kept them away from technical education. In fact, only the students who were not accepted in courses of general education because of their inability to fulfill conditions of age, or because of an insufficient background, or those who were not accepted by private schools, would normally take up technical education. But this problem has at last been solved recently under the country's strategy of expanding technical education. In fact, a new plan has been adopted to absorb 60 percent of the high school graduates. We have to mention here that 80 percent of the work force are primary school graduates, or can only read and write, or are illiterate, whereas the remainder are employed in service industries.

The second main problem is the lack of teaching staff who can achieve the objectives expected from graduates of technical schools, since the task of preparing qualified personnel has educational, social, economic, and political difficulties. It requires special qualifications which must be met by the teaching staff in general. Thus, teaching has become a profession with basic rules and guidelines, and not merely a simple job based on learning some easy skills which can be performed by every person. Accordingly, the technical school teacher must have two basic qualifications: first, he must be fully equipped with physical and mental capabilities, creative guidance, social abilities and nationalistic principles necessary for good teaching. Second, he must be a technician specialized in the trade or profession which he has undertaken to teach. For example, teachers of cultural education are holders of general high school diplomas, while they should have been qualified in their line of specialization apart from general education, since it is a difficult task to teach students to be loyal to their homeland and to the principles of their party which is no less important than preparing them technically.

As for teachers of technical subjects, they either do not have general educational qualifications for teaching or they are engineers only according to the requirements of the educational authorities internal regulations. But, in fact, engineers decline to take up teaching as a career, because they cannot qualify for salaries received by their colleagues working in other fields.

Here lies the main gap, in that technical education is not supplied with young engineers who have the desire to teach in technical schools. The situation is not much different for teachers of trades, who are mainly graduates of intermediate institutes and industrial high schools. As for workshops and machine-shops in industrial schools, which require modern equipment, the ministry of education, under the guidance of the president of the republic, spares no effort in making available the best tools and equipment regardless of the need for huge funds. Nevertheless, the industrial schools are still in need of modern equipment as far as quality and quantity are concerned. They also need modernized equipment to conform with the requirements of modern industrial teaching and the need to accept large numbers of students. Furthermore, although the school buildings are constructed in modern style, the question of heating has

not been taken into consideration. In fact, the management has already suffered many setbacks, in that the rate of students attending classes has been continuously declining during cold days. This has an adverse effect on the training of students.

On the other hand, technical school books and laboratories are not better off than others, since printed technical school books are not as well written as books of general education, since the former require more profound skills to produce and print.

As for laboratories, they are almost nonexistent for the special needs of vocational training in industrial schools to simplify complicated and ambiguous technical information for technical students, especially when certain subjects cannot be taught thoroughly without the help of a laboratory.

All the above problems are considered obstacles to technical education. Material, equipment, production requirements and good teaching are basic requirements for raising the standard of the student vocationally and scientifically. The reason for not being able to achieve these requirements is that the allocated funds have not been sufficient to meet the needs of price increases of such material and equipment.

Question and Answer

The question remains whether we have been successful in preparing technical personnel who can effectively handle established rules and regulations? The answer is no, of course. Nevertheless, there are serious attempts to achieve this by efforts of the ministry of education and other concerned organizations. As a result of this, the seminar for development of vocational training was held to find ways and means of overcoming the difficulties facing technical education in the country and its tasks were concluded last Wednesday.

Evaluation of the Seminar

Engineer Sharif-al-Din Muhammad, director of technical training in the ministry of education has declared that the value of the seminar lies in that it is the first seminar for vocational training held in the Syrian Arab Republic. It came after the large expansion in the field of technical education and in implementation of the directives of the president of the republic. Its importance also lies in that it was the first educational seminar which included large numbers of personnel working in the field of education. It was attended by approximately 130 technicians serving in various schools and technical institutes of the ministry of education, in addition to specialized advisors and administrative supervisors in the field of technical education. Also taking part in the seminar were members of the state planning board and the public organization for weaving and engineering industries. The participants have acquainted themselves with the real situation of technical education in Syria through the reports and lectures delivered during the seminar. They also learned the views of the board of planning and the country's strategy until the year 2000. They found out the needs of certain public sector organizations for technicians and specialists in specified subjects.

After all this, we want to ask what the benefit was of holding the seminar and how the participants reacted toward the real situation of technical education.

A Real Revolution

The participants in the seminar consider that the horizontal and vertical expansion of technical education is a real social, economic, and military revolution since technical and skilled manpower is the basis for developing the homeland and consolidating the principles of social and economic advancement. It is also the basis for a broad foundation of production, since the large number of people who seek higher education have an adverse effect on the economy and construction of the society.

In order that the revolution may achieve its ends, it is imperative to fulfill the more than 31 recommendations proposed by participants in the seminar, the most important of which are as follows: To unify the supervisory, planning and executive bodies of technical education and vocational training, which are scattered among various ministries; to provide licensed teachers from among the existing teaching staff for teaching theoretical and practical subjects and to induce them to remain in those institutes and high schools. Also, it is necessary to find a flexible formula for providing equipment for schools and technical institutes, and introducing training facilities within the country and abroad. Furthermore, material and moral incentives must be found to encourage technicians, such as engineers and teachers of various trades with experience in their fields of specialization to join the profession of vocational training and to facilitate their rehabilitation in the field of education. Thus, it is important to set up a technical committee to work on finding basic improvements to existing programs and educational plans. Also, modernizing the contents of certain programs with due regard to the composition of certain books on vocational training and its various branches is important because some of the programs are old and were prepared in 1950, and have not been improved since then, and the present programs are the continuation of those established earlier for the high schools.

Question: How can we overcome the difficulties facing technical education?

Answer: It is a matter of time. According to Sayid Sharaf-al-Din Muhammad, "The present difficulties encountered by technical education are difficulties encountered by educational work in general. However, there are certain difficulties which could be overcome by the efforts of the ministry in cooperation with the other concerned authorities from within the ministries and other organizations. I believe that continuous efforts in technical education would result in overcoming the difficulties which usually occur when great achievements are sought. It must be mentioned here that the horizontal expansion which resulted in creating new technical schools and institutes is far greater than that which the country can shoulder, especially in the near future. For example, what is the use of opening 50 schools if we are unable to equip them with modern equipment and technical staff? Now we can only say that the possibility of overcoming these difficulties is by setting up a general board of technical and technological education to control all technical and technological sciences and their organizations in the country. But this is only a question of time..."

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION--Dr Sulaiman Qaddah, member of the Regional Command and President of Peasants Regional Office, has presided over a number of meetings which were attended by concerned cabinet ministers, a number of specialists and other concerned authorities. The aim was to review the law of agricultural relations and the law of the Agricultural Cooperative Bank. A correspondent from the Syrian Arab News Agency has learned that the committees established by these meetings ended their duties yesterday after having reached a decision on a final draft of the Law of Agricultural Relations and the Agricultural Cooperative Bank. The committee has also proposed adoption of certain measures and rules to encourage peasants who wish to change the category of their land from unwatered to irrigated land. This was in implementation of the directives of comrade the secretary-general of the party with the aim of consolidating the agricultural sector and modernizing and developing means of production especially in the cooperative sector. In addition, the outcome of the committees' work has been passed to the authorities concerned to finalize the publication. It is worth mentioning that these meetings have been concluded in implementation of the resolutions of the fifth session of the party's central committee which, among other things, has entrusted the regional agricultural bureau with the task of reviewing the law of agricultural relations and the law of the Agricultural Cooperative Bank, and of laying down rules and principles necessary to encourage peasants to change their lands from unwatered land to irrigated land and to expand the planting of fruit trees and vegetables. [Text] [Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Aug 82 p 4] 9902

CSO: 4404/663

TUNISIA

RESULTS NATIONAL SURVEY OF FOOD PRODUCTS CONSUMPTION

Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 418,6 Sep 82 pp 18-21

[Excerpt] The 1980 survey of the situation and development of consumption [of food products] by Tunisian households carried out by the National Institute of Statistics [INS] showed an appreciable increase in consumption by Tunisians. The improvement in the people's income has resulted in an improvement in their level of consumption and thus an increase in their level of spending. As a matter of fact, according to the INS survey the average expenditure by person and by year totaled 248 dinars for the country as a whole in 1980, while it was only 147 dinars in 1975; that is, an annual increase of 11 percent calculated at constant prices.

However, we note a spread between expenditures in the rural and urban sectors. The per capita expenditure in the urban sector totaled 332 dinars while it was only 157 dinars in the rural sector compared with 1975.

The improvement in the average level of consumption affected all income classes: the percentage of the population having expenditures less than 70 dinars in 1980 or 50 dinars in 1975 went from 17 percent in 1975 to 10.5 percent in 1980.

The percentage of the population with expenditures over 500 dinars rose from 5 percent in 1975 to 9 percent in 1980.

The population segment with expenditures between 70 and 500 dinars, which made up 78 percent of the total in 1975, now represents 80.5 percent.

In the urban sector, the rapid increase in consumption at the rate of 4.5 percent calculated in constant prices had the effect on the one hand of causing a sizable reduction in the least favored segment of the population, as the percentage of persons having expenditures under 120 dinars fell from 26 percent in 1975 to 11.8 percent in 1980, and on the other hand of appreciably improving the standard of living of the most affluent segment of the populace (expenditures over 500 dinars) which saw the effective value of its money rise from 10 percent in 1975 to 15 percent in 1980.

On the other hand, in the rural sector where the percentage of growth in consumption was 1.5 percent a year in constant prices, the percentage of

the population having expenditures less than 120 dinars dropped only slightly from 36.5 percent in 1975 to 34.3 percent in 1980, while the percentage of the affluent segment of the population was almost stagnated around 2 percent during the same period. It appears from this that the median population having expenditures between 120 and 500 dinars benefited the most from this growth, as it grew in size from 45.5 to 51.6 percent of the population between 1975 and 1980.

This permits us to say that the purchasing power of a Tunisian improved in an appreciable way; however, we note disparities between the expenditures of households.

--Half of the most affluent segment of the population accounts for 78.3 percent of total expenditures, while the other half, the poorest segment, makes only 21.7 percent of the remaining expenditures.

--Half of total expenditures are made by 21 percent of the most affluent segment of the population, while the remainder of the population (79 percent) makes the other half;

--Some 20 percent of the poorest segment of the population make 5 percent of total expenditures, while the most affluent 10 percent make about a third of total expenditures. The former spend less than 97 dinars a year while the latter spend over 499 dinars, that is a ratio of about 1 to 5.

Similarly, the survey reflects disparities between regions.

Thus the northwestern and the central-western regions whose urbanization percentages are the lowest (respectively 25 and 22 percent) make average expenditures not exceeding 169 dinars and continue to remain clearly lower than the overall average. Let us note that the average expenditures recorded in the northeastern region, which is the most urbanized, is about twice that of the northwestern and central-western regions.

Regional analysis has shown that the per capita increase in consumption (calculated at constant prices) between 1975 and 1980 is positive for all regions. However, this increase was at different rates, as reflected in the table.

Table 1. Distribution of Expenditures by Region (INS Survey)

Regions	Per Capita Expenditures (in dinars)	Urbanization Rate (in percentage)
Northeastern	324	72
Northwestern	169	25
Central-eastern	254	63
Central-western	168	22
Southern	235	53

Table 2. Evolution of Per Capita and Per Year Expenditures (at constant prices) by Region [in dinars]

<u>Regions</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>Changes between 1975 and 1980 (in percent)</u>	<u>Annual Rate of Increase (in percent)</u>
Tunis	430	358	12.6	2.4
Northeastern	223	188	18.7	3.5
Northwestern	169	133	27.1	4.9
Central-eastern	255	226	12.8	2.4
Central-western	168	140	20.0	3.7
Southern	235	139	69.1	11.1

8143

CSO: 4519/315

LOCAL PRESS CALLS FOR CONFRONTING U.S.-ISRAELI ALLIANCE

GF190910 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0625 GMT 19 Oct 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Oct (WAM)--Two local newspapers today called on Arabs to unite their ranks to confront the Israeli-U.S. alliance and to prepare themselves for this confrontation by implementing all means, including the military work, especially as the real Israeli intentions against the Arab nation have become apparent. In this way the two newspapers commented on the speech of the Israeli enemy's Prime Minister Menachem Begin to the Knesset yesterday in which he rejected any peace initiative depending on what he described as the inability of the Arabs to launch any war against Israel in the near future and in which he rejected the establishment of an independent Palestinian state or a Palestinian state in association with Jordan.

AL-ITTIHAD newspaper said that by this talk, Begin has undoubtedly proved the truth of the saying "You cannot go beyond the range of your cannons," especially with an entity that from the beginning has been depending on force, violence and terrorism. In its editorial, the newspaper said that what is important about Begin's talk this time is his timing, because at a time when we at last agreed on a unified peace plan and formed the committees to explain it to the world as a proof to our good will and at the time when U.S. President Reagan proposed his peaceful plan, Begin once again wants to prove that force for him is the origin and is the decisive criterion.

The newspaper called on the Arabs to confront this logic by preparing and strengthening themselves. It said: the Almighty God was right, when he said "and make ready for them whatever you can of armed force and of mounted pickets at the frontier, whereby you may frighten the enemy of God and your enemy" [Koranic verse], because the possession of force does not always necessarily mean to resort to the use of force, but means that our words should be respected, our plans should be believed and that our committees and delegation should have their weight and influence.

AL-KHALIJ newspaper, which is published in Ash-Shariqah said that Begin's "no's" in themselves are not important but their importance arises from their timing. The Israeli foreign minister could push forward in Washington

the Israeli-U.S. relations to very advanced stages. The U.S. administration reemphasized that President Reagan will not receive any Arab delegation sent by the Fes summit that includes a PLO representative and this is considered a clear and complete U.S. rejection of the decisions of the Fes summit which are aimed at settling the Middle East crisis.

In its editorial, the newspaper went on saying that this first Zionist stance which is based on the constant U.S. support as well should make the Arabs after they had presented a peace program on the basis of the Fes document reconsider their calculations and deal with the enemy using the same logic. This means that the other options, especially the military Arab option, should not be ignored. Begin's 'no's' should make the Arab governments well aware of the U.S. intentions, with which the enemy's prime minister affirms the continuation of the Israeli alliance.

The newspaper concluded by saying that as long as Israel and the United States are fighting the Arabs from one trench and with various means, the task now is that all the Arabs should stand in one trench to deal with the Israeli-U.S. alliance with more than one method, including the military option, especially since the United States has undoubtedly rejected the Arab decision adopted by the Fes summit.

CSO: 4400/39

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

FOREIGN MINISTRY, ELF MEET--Abu Dhabi, 19 Oct (WAKH)--UAE Foreign Ministry Undersecretary 'Abd al-Mun'im al'Jarawan met here today with Osman Mohamed Omar, the ELF representative in the Gulf region. During the meeting, recent developments in the Eritrean arena and the preparations of the Ethiopian Government for launching an attack against the positions of the Eritrean revolution within the framework of the sixth campaign of which the first part ended in failure during the first quarter of the year was discussed. Discussion also dealt with the meeting of the popular front being held in Eritrea. [Text] [GF192006 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Oct 82]

DUBAYY EXPORT FIGURE--The statistics compiled by the Dubai Customs and Ports Department show that the monthly export and reexport average of the Emirate to Arab countries thus far during 1982 amounts to 350 million dirhams. [GF121202 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Oct 82 p 2 GF]

CSO: 4400/39

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

Nov 5-82